

Past Grand Master Graham, whose absence on this occasion is deeply regretted by all, I am proud to call my friend. For nearly a decade, occupying the position of executive of this Grand Lodge, his voice and pen have given to the Masonic world an able enunciation of the principles of Grand Lodge sovereignty, for which you have so long and so fearlessly fought. His writings have been eagerly read by the American fraternity. England must have perused them with more than ordinary interest.

I might refer to my acquaintance with all your Past Grand Masters, and especially with your able, genial, present Grand Master, who has led Quebec in a Vermont invasion, happily not unmasonic, but for "innocent merriment."

I recall with pleasure my acquaintance with R. W. Bro. Meigs, who was a warm friend of Vermont and did much to secure its aid in your behalf; and also the stalwart form of your Grand Secretary standing in our Grand Lodge in 1870, giving blows to the cause advocated by M. W. Bro. Bernard that he could neither parry nor return.

There are many other prominent brethren to whom I might refer, and especially to M. W. Bro. Geo. O. Tyler, a brother with a sort of dual masonic existence: one whom you claim when in Quebec, and who is counted by us on the other side of the line. You have honored him here, and we have found pleasure in honoring him there; but whether in Quebec or Vermont, he is the same true and loyal friend, zealous Mason, and ardent worker in behalf of those who come within the circle of his friendship.

With such a *coterie* of friends largely increased by my visit to your Grand Chapter yesterday, I feel that I may justly claim to be at home among you.

I regret that the Grand Master of my State could not be present to share in this generous reception, and to fittingly respond for Vermont, for I can assure you that among the leading Masons of Vermont, your ally and friend, none are more earnest in their regard for Quebec, and the interests which she has at stake, than M. W. Marsh O. Perkins, Grand Master of Vermont.

For many years I have held the honorable position of Grand Representative of your Grand Lodge near our own. Whether my record, as such, has been creditable to myself or an honor to you is a matter of Masonic history.

I am glad to say that the delay in 1870, only made our complete recognition of your cause more sure in 1872. Since that memorable occasion, Quebec has never been in the minority in the Grand Lodge of Vermont and never will be again.

Thank God the unpleasantness then existing between you and Canada has long since been settled,—Canada making the *amende honorable* with a true and commendable Masonic spirit. England *must* yield; for truth, justice and right are the banners which you are bearing in this warfare, and they cannot be overcome.