

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

## MASONIC RECORD.

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### FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AT PETERBORO'.

On the evening of the Festival of St. John the Baptist, the members of Corinthian Lodge, No. 101, and Peterboro' Lodge, No. 155, of Peterboro', having previously applied for and received the requisite dispensation, walked in procession to St. John's Church, where a sermon was preached, applicable to the occasion, by R. W. Bro. the Rev. Vincent Clementi, B.A.

The text was taken from the 1st Lesson appointed for the Evening Service: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." MALACHI iv., 5.

The preacher commenced by expressing the gratification he had experienced at being able to respond to the invitation conveyed to him by his brethren of the two Lodges, to assist them in celebrating, in the manner in which, were he still in the flesh, he would desire to see it celebrated, the Festival of St. John the Baptist. For it was, in his opinion, the bounden duty of every Mason to employ his best endeavors in furtherance of the honor of the Craft, and to prove to the outer world that the laws by which we are guided, and the principles by which we are actuated, are such as emanated from that Holy Book, without the exhibition of whose open page on our altar no Masonic work

can be effected. "And," he added, "if this is the duty of each individual member of our Lodges, it is more emphatically incumbent on every officer of those Lodges, on those honored by the special confidence of their brethren, to be ready, at all times, to exercise the legitimate functions of their respective stations. And I, therefore, as the Chaplain of the oldest of your two Lodges, cheerfully acknowledge your right to command my services whenever those services can be made available for the well-being of the Craft in connection with our religious duties."

He then referred to the reason why the Church of England identified the Chapter from which the text was taken with the history of the Baptist. It is because our Saviour has condescended to interpret for us those words, and has informed us that the Elijah there spoken of is the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, for He says in St. Mathew, xi, 10, "This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee,'" (quoting from MALACHI) and He adds: "Verily, I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist."

He then alluded to the various portions of Scripture appointed to be