

CHAPTER I.

Introductory.

St. Andrew's Lodge, Halifax, N. S., which on March 26th, 1918, completed the 150th year of its history since the signing of its Charter by the Grand officers of the "Ancients," may claim not only to have the most interesting and continuous Masonic history of any Lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, but is also entitled to the distinction of being the oldest living Lodge in the Dominion of Canada, and the oldest in the British Empire outside the British Isles. It is the only Lodge on the Nova Scotia Registry which for over one hundred years was registered in England. Throughout its long history it has been linked closely with the history of the great port of Halifax, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Empire, and its records constantly reflect the story of the growth of the city, nation and Imperial Commonwealth.

The Revival of 1717. The reader will probably be familiar with the history of early British Freemasonry as an operative institution through the Middle Ages, and the gradual introduction among the workmen of "speculative" or "accepted" members, until the control of many of the lodges had virtually passed into their hands. Few periods of Masonic history are more interesting, and we commend the reader to its study.

The story of the Revival of 1717 is succinctly told by Wm. Preston in his *Illustrations* (edit. 1792) basing his account on Anderson's *Constitutions* of 1738.

"On the accession of George I., the Masons in London and its environs, finding themselves deprived of Sir Christopher Wren, and their annual meetings discontinued, resolved to cement themselves under a new Grand Master, and to revive the communications and annual festivals of the Society. With this view, the Lodges at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Church-Yard; the Crown, in Parker's Lane, near Drury Lane; the Apple-Tree Tavern, in Charles Street, Covent Garden; and the Rummer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel Row, Westminster, the only four Lodges in being in the South of England at that time,