



CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER.

“Memor et Fidelis.”

VOL. I.]

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1, 1856.

[No. 6.

GRAND MASONIC CEREMONY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE FOUNDATION OF GRACE CHURCH AT BRANTFORD C. W.

On Tuesday last, this important event, looked forward to by the congregation of Grace Church and others with considerable interest, took place. The Rev. Mr. Usher, during the ten days preceding the event, had been indefatigable in his labors to infuse a proper appreciation of the importance of the occasion into the minds of his people, and we are happy to say his efforts were crowned with success, for great enthusiasm was manifested by every member of the congregation. He was ably seconded also by the members of the Masonic body of Brantford, to whom great praise is due for the excellence of the arrangements.

A special train had been sent to Paris to meet the various members of the Masonic fraternity who had been invited to attend, and a brief space of time sufficed for the transit over our almost finished road, of deputations from the Lodges at Hamilton, Grimsby, Galt and Preston; the Grand Master and other Grand Officers and Brethren from Simcoe, London, St. Thomas, St. Catharines, Stratford, Caledonia, Binbrook, Paris, Woodstock, York, Burford, Onondaga and Delaware were also early in attendance. In all 15 Canadian and one United States, Lodge being represented.

The brethren met in Lodge at noon, and the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by the Grand Master. The Brethren then adjourned for refreshment, a sumptuous *dejeuner* being laid out in the ante room of the Lodge, by a committee of ladies who volunteered their services to prepare it, in order that the guests of the Brant Lodge might be received with all due honor; after which the Brethren repaired to the Kerby-House where they joined a procession, constituted in the following order:—

Band, Church Choir, Lanty, Church Wardens, Visiting Clergy, Incumbent of Brantford the Rev. Dr. Cronyn, Building Committee, Contractors, Architect with Plans, Members of the Town Council—two and two, His Worship the Mayor, Two Stewards of Brant Lodge with Wands, Visi-

ting Brethren, not members of any Lodge—two and two, visiting Brethren of Lodges not under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada—two and two, Lodges under Canadian Registry, according to their numbers, the Juniors going first, Tyler with Sword, Brethren of Brant Lodge—two and two—Inner Guard with Sword, Deacons, with Wands of office, Secretary and Treasurer, the Holy Bible, with Square and Compasses on a sky blue Cushion, borne by a Master Mason, Wardens with their Pillars, Past Masters, Two Grand Stewards Grand Pursuivant, Conuocopia with Corn, Ewer with wine, Ewer with Oil, Grand Organist; Grand Director of Ceremonies, Silver Trowel, borne by a P. M., Grand Superintendent of Works, with Scroll, Grand Secretary, bearing the Book of Constitution on a Cushion, Grand Registrar with the Grand Seal, Grand Treasurer, with tal containing Coins; Past Grand Chaplain, Grand Chaplain, with volume of Sacred Law, Square and Compasses, on a Velvet Cushion, G. Steward, D. D. Grand Master, G. Steward, Corinthian Light, borne by a P. M., Column of Grand J. W., borne by a P. M., Grand Junior Warden, with Plumb and Rule, Doric Light, borne by a P. M., Column of Grand J. W., borne by a P. M., Grand Senior Warden, with Level, Grand Junior Deacon, Ionic Light, borne by a P. M., the Mallet of a P. M., Grand Lodge Banner, Grand Sword Bearer, G. Steward, M. W. Grand Master, G. Steward, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Tyler.

One of the most notable features of the procession was Mr. GEORGE JOHNSTONE, chief of the six nations Indians, in the picturesque Indian costume, and full Masonic clothing, he being a Master-Mason. The Philharmonic Band, under the Directorship of Herr F. Beyer, headed the procession, playing the “Mason’s March,” and other appropriate airs.

The church being reached, the old edifice was soon filled to repletion; but scarcely had the Rev. Dr. Cronyn of London commenced his discourse, when one of the sills forming the foundation gave way with a loud crash, causing great excitement, amongst the immense congregation,—the impression being that the whole structure was giving way. An adjournment to the open air was therefore resolved upon, and the sermon continued there. In the rush which followed the first alarm, we are happy to say no injury was sustained by any person.

Owing to the above accident, the Rev. gentleman’s discourse was not as elaborate as it

otherwise would have been, but full justice was done to the important occasion which had called the assemblage together.

At the conclusion of the sermon the architect, Mr. Turner, advanced to the Grand Master and presented the plans, which were approved and returned; a bottle was then deposited in the cavity of the lower stone, containing a programme of the proceedings, a copy of each of the Brantford papers, and the following inscription, engrossed on vellum composed by the Rev. Dr. Lundy, P. G. C. both in Latin and English;

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Amen.

This Corner Stone of
Grace Church, in this Town
and Parish of Brantford,
and County of Brant, and

Province of Canada,
was laid with ample Masonic honours,
by

William Mercer Wilson, Esquire,
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons
of Canada.

in the presence of
the

Reverend Benjamin Cronyn,
Rector of London D. D., and
Rural Dean, C. W.

and many Priests assisting;
The Honourable and Right Reverend
John Strachan, D. D., LL. D., being
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto;
James Campbell Usher, Clerk,
Incumbent of Brantford;

and
Thomas Botham, and Henry Racey,
Churchwardens,

John Turner, Architect of the Church,
On Tuesday, the 14th day of October, A. D, 1856,
A. I. 5856,
and in the twentieth year of her Majesty,
Victoria,
of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender
of the Faith.

The Building Committee consisted of
Mathew William Prayn, George Samuel Wilkes,
Alexander Punnell, Alexander Greer,
Thomas Botham, Henry Racey.

The officers of Brant Lodge, No. 22, R. C.
of Free and Accepted Masons, were