

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

## MASONIC RECORD.

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### SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA,

OF THE

United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

Allocution of the Supreme Grand Master, Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore, United Orders of the Temple and Malta for the Dominion of Canada, read before the Fourth Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory, on the 12th day of July, 1887, at Brockville, Ontario, being the Jubilee Year of Our Most Gracious Sovereign Lady the Queen.

FRATRES,—Once more I am privileged to be with you at our Annual Conclave, a pleasure of which I have been deprived for three years, in consequence of severe and protracted illness, and it is with profound gratitude to the Almighty disposer of events, that I am permitted to meet you all again, a privilege even more highly valued as occurring in this the Jubilee Year of the Reign of our Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria, the Patron of our Templar Order,—an occasion great in itself, evoking a feeling of loyalty and pride to our mother-country, and to ourselves, when we regard the wonderful progress of this Great Colony during the Reign and under the far-reaching influence of our beloved Queen, and when we as subjects and citizens are vying together to make this year a memorial to be looked back to in time to come as the 50th Anniversary of the Most Constitutional Reign the world ever saw, without even once the national freedom being infringed. It has been well said, "The Crown of the British realms was placed upon the head of the most popular and beloved Sovereign that ever wielded the sceptre since the days of Alfred;"

let us not forget the true spirit of the "Jubilee" year, an ancient and solemn ordinance full of the deepest significance, instituted by God Himself, very long before earthly Sovereigns had any existence. Wherein the *Seventh* month of the *Fiftieth* year, at the joyful sound of the trumpet, all bond were made free, all prisoners liberated, all wrongs forgiven, all debts remitted, all wanderers reclaimed, and peace, love, joy and freedom reigned supreme. Every part of the institution, as given to us in Scriptures, and by the great historian, Josephus, was divinely intended to promote and express national joy, thanksgiving, and restoration to religious liberty. The governing principle being that of the "SABBATH," or "day of rest," from secular occupations, and increased attention and devotion of our hearts to God. The *Seventh* year being observed like unto the *Seventh* day, and after *Seven Sabbaths* of years, otherwise "*Forty-Nine*." The "*Fiftieth*" was "the acceptable year of the Lord," in which there should be special blessings most abundantly bestowed on those who observe its provisions and abide by its teachings, pointing ever onward to that spiritual rest, the expression of Divine favor, and the Christian's crowning privilege.

Deeply grateful for the opportunity of participating in the National Celebration, and mingling more serious thoughts with the joyous feelings, to which, as a body, you will give such expressions as you may think proper, to evince the love and loyalty by all classes of the Dominion towards their Sovereign, and none more