

could not be erected at a less cost than fifteen hundred pounds. To this we reply that £2500 or more could easily be raised by a joint stock company of masons. Surely, two hundred and fifty shares at £10 per share, could be disposed of. For our own part, having already broached the subject to many friends—all of whom have expressed a willingness to take stock—we are beyond doubt on the matter. Indeed, so sanguine do we feel of the success of the undertaking if once begun, that should no other person take it up we will devote as much of our leisure as we can spare to the work of soliciting our brethren to take shares. The interest of from one hundred to two hundred persons, once secured by the payment of a call of ten dollars per share, they would, for their own sakes, see to the completion of the work.

Freemason Female Orphan School.

A meeting of the governors of this institution was held in Freemason's Hall Dame Street, for the purpose of distributing the prizes which had been awarded to the children at the late examinations at the school.

The meeting was fully attended by the brethren, the governors of the school. A large number of ladies were also present.

His Grace the Duke of Leinster, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ireland, entered the room at three o'clock, and was attended to the chair by the R. W. the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplains, and the other Grand Officers.

The children of the school then entered the room, under care of the matron, and the Grand Master being saluted, proceedings were opened with prayer. The Hundredth Psalm was then sung in excellent style by the children. Br. White, grand organist, presiding at the organ.

The Deputy Grand Master addressed the meeting tracing the progress of the school from its foundation in 1796, to the present. Twenty-two children are supported and educated at the school, and the most favorable accounts have been received of those sent out into the world.

The children were then presented to the Most Noble the Grand Master, and received from his hands the prizes awarded to them. His Grace briefly addressed the meeting, and expressed his satisfaction at the progress of the school.

A hymn was then sung by the children, and his Grace having left the chair, the brethren and visitors retired to another room, where refreshments were provided, after which the meeting separated, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.—*Dublin (Ireland) Advocate.*

The old fogysm, says M. W. Philip C. Tucker, which sees analogies where there are none, and shuts its eyes against those which actually exist, which would chain masonry by assumed and fictitious rules, or fetter it by its own imaginations, must and will wear away, or halt the usefulness of the order will be destroyed.



Yours fraternally
Wm. M. Wilson

Col. WILLIAM MERCER WILSON is an inhabitant of Simcoe, the county town of the county of Norfolk, in Canada West. He was born in Scotland, on the 21st August, 1813, and emigrated to Canada in April, 1832.

He was initiated at Simcoe, in St. John's Lodge, (now called Norfolk Lodge), on the 11th June, 1840. Passed and raised 9th July, 1840; elected Junior Warden in December, 1840, and by request of the Lodge, prepared and delivered an address at the public installation of the officers on St. John's day of that year, which was afterwards printed by order of the Lodge. He was first elected to the Chair in December, 1842, which he has filled, with brief intermissions, for ten years. Has been, from date of initiation, and is now, a contributing member of Norfolk Lodge.

On the 7th of August, 1845, Bro. Wilson laid the corner stone of the Presbyterian Church, in the Village of Victoria, with masonic honors, on which occasion he delivered an address, which was subsequently published in pamphlet form, with a dedication to Sir. A. N. McNab, the Prov. G. M., the whole edition of which was sold by and for the relief of a distressed Brother Mason, who, from disease, had lost his sight. The proceeds of the sale were considerable, and had also, it is believed, a beneficial effect in diffusing a more general knowledge of the value and beauty of Masonry throughout the Province.

In June, 1847, he received a Gold Medal, for which see *American Freemason*, Vol. 4. No. 1.

July 22d, 1847, he laid the corner stone of the county jail, assisted by the Brethren and authorities of the county.

After taking the preliminary degrees, he was exalted to the Sublime Degree of a R. A. M., in King Hiram Chapter, in the City of Hamilton, Canada West.

At the revival of the Prov. Grand Lodge, on 15th June, 1848, opened under patent issued by the G. L. of England to the R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier McNab, Bro. Wilson was appointed G. Pursuivant; and at laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at St. Catherine's, on the 29th October, 1848, by special appointment, he officiated as Grand Orator—(This was probably the most magnificent and numerously attended masonic display that ever took place in Canada.) The address was published, in *extenso*, by the papers of the day, and subsequently printed, by order of the P. G. Lodge, in pamphlet form, together with a dedication by the author to R. W. Bro. Thos. G. Ridout, Esq., D. P. G. M. Since that time he has attended many meetings of the P. G. L., and ge-

nerally taken an active part in the proceedings, frequently filling the chair, and in the West when G. S. W. was absent.

He visited England, in 1851, as a delegate from the Provincial Agricultural Society of Canada to the great exhibition. There he availed himself of the opportunity of searching in the archives of the Grand Lodge of England for information as to the antiquity, &c., of the Lodge of which he was then Master. The intelligence thus obtained was gladly received and gratefully acknowledged by the Brethren.

When in Europe, he visited many Lodges in England and France, and returned to Canada with, if possible, a deeper veneration and higher appreciation of the value of Masonry than ever before.

A series of letters, addressed to his friends in Canada, containing extracts from his notes of travel, his visits to the Crystal Palace, Paris, &c., were published, and attracted some attention. On his return, he was honored by a public reception, when his numerous friends, with music, &c., welcomed him home again.

On the 11th October, 1855, he was elected by the Representatives of forty-one Lodges to fill the distinguished position of first G. M. of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

Bro. Wilson has always taken a lively interest in educational and agricultural matters, being for many years a director of the County of Norfolk Agricultural Society, and has filled the office of President of that Society. He is now a member of the County Board of Education, President of the Simcoe Board of School Trustees, and has for several years been President of Simcoe Mechanics' Institute.

He purchased and brought into the county its first printing press, and for a year and a half edited the *Norfolk Observer*. There are now five papers published in the county, four of which are printed in Simcoe.

He commanded a troop of cavalry during the excitement which broke out in Canada in 1837, and was kept on active service for nearly three years. In acknowledgment of which, received from Provincial Government the appointments of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Court, both of which offices he still holds. Has since risen to the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the Militia of the Province.

He is a member also of the Canadian Bar. In politics, moderate, conservative,—rather popular, but has always declined being a candidate for parliamentary honors.

The masonic character of Bro. Wilson being