

of fraternal confidence and affection this story has been made to convey, as an earnest protest of repentance for old injustice, and that he still retains enough of the Junior Deacon enthusiasm to welcome it more heartily because the protest is thus made public—so that it may speak, not merely personally but to the whole Craft of our common love and honor, pointing out to each brother within hail how slow should we be towards suspecting the fair fame of one another, and, by its contrast of his firmness and another's levity, teaching that through the world and through the lodge there are indeed Masons and Masons, and that only within the shelter of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Infinite can the most steadfast brother now working below be assured of protection against involuntary wrong or of security from the remorse of frailty.

[THE END].

---

COLONEL WILLIAM MERCER WILSON.

---

With this number of the *CRAFTSMAN* we present a portrait of the first Grand Master of Canada, whose masonic fame needs no herald either in the Dominion or the United States. At the same time we have pleasure in supplying some slight details of his career, necessarily brief through our own contraction of space, and necessarily inadequate as regards his valuable services.

Dealing first with his Grand Lodge connection, we have then to record that, on the establishment of the supreme Canadian body in October, 1855, Col. Wilson was elected its first Grand Master. He continued to occupy the chair for nearly five years, but was permitted to retire in 1860, only to be again chosen six years later with great unanimity, and occupying the Grand East until July, 1868, when, in consequence of his appointment to important judicial office, the Colonel declined to offer himself for re-election.

Ever indefatigable in the discharge of his important duties, the Grand Master, during the early years of the Grand Lodge, spent much time, toil, and money, in visiting the sister Grand Lodges of the United States, in all of which he was received with true masonic kindness and courtesy, and with the respect due to his exalted position and fraternal worth.

He also personally visited a majority of our Lodges, both in Upper and Lower Canada, and did good service to the Craft in awakening the then dormant interest in matters of masonic moment, laying many corner-stones and getting many trowels, delivering addresses and lectures almost ubiquitously, and receiving marks of regard and appreciation innumerable, in the shape of presentations of the most varied character.