

prior to 1768 running as far back as 1750. But that is another story, which must not detain us to-night.

Month by month, year by year since without a break, it has done its work. If on two or three occasions, it has failed to "open" because of the absence from the city of all three of its principal officers, although more than the required quorum of members were present, whatever its claims to antiquity, they cannot be in the least prejudiced by such circumstance.

St. Andrew's was for fifteen years virtually the Grand Lodge of the Maritime Provinces. It assisted in the formation of at least seven other subordinate lodges during that time when there was no Grand Lodge in the Provinces. Among its members it has numbered six Grand Masters of the Craft, and many others of distinction both in the Craft and in civil life, including the present prime minister of Canada.

Let us however interesting this digression might be made, return to the subject for our consideration, dealing with the claims of each of the six lodges which I have mentioned.

The Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1, G. R. Q. In an historical sketch of this Lodge written by R. W. Bro. J. Beamish Saul, P. M., of the Lodge, in 1912. (John Lovell & Sons, Ltd., Montreal), the dedication to the G. M. of Quebec, refers to the Lodge as "the oldest Lodge in Canada," and concludes with the quotation, "Truth is mighty and must prevail." In referring to the claims of this Lodge, I am indebted to Bro. Saul's history and to the late J. Ross Robertson's monumental work, "The History of Freemasonry in Canada," Chapter 94, based on information furnished by R. W. Bro. Alex. Murray of The Lodge of Antiquity.

A reference to these two works discloses the fact that on March 4th, 1752, "a travelling warrant, No. 227, was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland," to the Masons of the 46th Regiment of Foot, under the name of "The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues." The history of this military Lodge as well as that of the regiment is most interesting but time does not permit extended reference.

In 1757, the 46th with other regiments sailed from Cork for Nova Scotia, doing duty there until the following year; and it is on record that "Lodge 227 was very active, doing