

Divine Services were frequently held in Roman Catholic Houses of Worship in Quebec and vicinity. Since then, others have changed; genuine Freemasonry has not.

In 1823, a Provincial Grand Lodge for the District of Montreal and the Borough of William Henry [now Sorel] was warranted by the United Grand Lodge of England, with William McGillivray, Esq., as the first Provincial Grand Master.

And as Freemasonry ever loyally adapts its Grand Governance, to organic changes in State territorial boundaries, the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed in 1855, for the reunited Provinces, with William Mercer Wilson, Esq., as the first Grand Master.

Twenty six years ago, Oct. 20, 1869, about two years after the disseverance of the Province of Canada into the two Provinces of Quebec and Ontario and the establishment of the present Dominion, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and accepted Masons of Quebec [which is so well and worthily represented here to-night] was duly and constitutionally formed as one of the many sovereign sister Grand Bodies of the Fraternity throughout the world; with him who has now the honor of addressing you as the first Grand Master.

And R. W. Chairman and Brethren, on this most auspicious occasion, permit me to add, that in my opinion, few Grand Lodges have more speedily and completely justified their existence than has our beloved and honored Grand Lodge of Quebec. Ere the close of my own administration of its affairs, all the regular Grand Lodges of the world, were a unit in the recognition and support of Quebec, with the unhappy exception of England, and that too, on but one single point, and upon which I do not hesitate to re-affirm that she is in error constitutionally and otherwise.

Yes, my Brethren, it necessarily rejoices me that the Grand Lodge of Quebec has so soon made realities of so many of my recorded forecasts. She has indeed amply justified her exist-

ence in the steady increase of her constituent Lodges; in her harmonious labors; in her continuous deeds of beneficence; in her succession of able and efficient Grand Masters and other Grand Officers; in the faithful maintenance of the honor, dignity and constitutions of our ancient and honorable Fraternity; and in having been the means of causing to be produced, the first jurisdictional History of Craft Masonry, written and published in British North America; and not only in these and in other ways, has Quebec thus justified her constitutional formation and secured her proud position, but she has also been signally favored by many gifted and generous sons and zealous Lodges, in the erection and equipment of this goodly Masonic Temple in which for the first time, we are now so happily assembled, worthily to celebrate our time-immemorial Winter Solstitial Festival, dedicate in this our Christian Era, to the blessed memory of Saint John the Divine..

And now my dear Brethren, as a fitting conclusion to these brief and imperfect utterances, I know that you, one and all, will, with your whole heart and mind, devoutly join in the supplication that the Most High may ever continue to bless and prosper the Grand Lodge of Quebec and the Craft Universal; and may it also be that true Sons of Light, and worthy Brethren of the Mystic Tie, may joyously and becomingly celebrate this Annual Grand Festival of our Fraternity, *in sæcula sæculorum*.

R. W. Bro. Fyfe, in referring to the meetings of other Masons on St. John's Day, asked permission of the brethren in union assembled to send a despatch to the brethren in New York, as being the metropolitan city on the other side of the line. His intention was to wire congratulations and express mutual fraternal feeling, with the idea that Masonry is a bond that binds men, no matter from whence they come or what language they speak, and expressing the hope that this tie of Masonry should always be able to smooth away and