

according to the designs and plans submitted, will be a cause of pride and satisfaction to the fraternity in general, and will form a beautiful addition to the already numerous magnificent structures which adorn your flourishing city. Hamilton has been called an ambitious city, but her ambition is a noble one. From a small sleepy village, overshadowed by Ancaster (as I well remember it upwards of forty years ago), she has become one of the leading cities in the Dominion; she is now the centre of a net of railways; standing, as she does, at the head of the navigable waters of Lake Ontario, with all the advantages of its beautiful bay, she has now become, through the energy, enterprise and public spirit of her inhabitants, the great commercial emporium of the western section of our province. May prosperity attend her progress. To the Freemasons of Canada, Hamilton—as the birthplace of our Grand Lodge—must ever be an object of the liveliest interest. The day selected for the performance of this ceremony is also an auspicious one, for it is the anniversary of the founding of this great Dominion. The beneficial results of confederation are now admitted by all, and each succeeding year witnesses an increased prosperity. May the Great Architect of the Universe pour down His richest blessings upon our Queen and country. May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

We will now proceed to lay the foundation stone according to ancient custom, and our acting Grand Chaplain will implore a blessing on the undertaking.

R. W. Bro. S. B. Harman, Acting Grand Chaplain, then offered up the following prayer:

"Great Architect of the Universe, Maker and Ruler of all Worlds, deign from thy Celestial Temple, from realms of light and glory to help us in all the purposes of our present assembly. We humbly invoke thee to give us at this and all times, wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony in all our communications. Permit us, O, Thou author of life and light, great source of love and happiness, to erect this building so that