

PREFACE.

The members of the Chapter are induced to send forth this history in the hope that it may be the means of inciting other Masonic bodies to place on record the many and varied interesting facts that have occurred in the progress of Masonry in this Province, and which are now only within the knowledge of individual Chapters and Lodges. Thus would those measures which were conducive to the prosperity of the Craft in by-gone days be known and appreciated, and being known, would serve to guide the brethren in the further advancement of the Order. Thus would its seasons of adversity—the causes of its decline—be placed on record, and become a beacon to warn the brethren in their conduct and government,—enable them to avoid the many shoals and quicksands that have already and may again impede the progress of our time-honored institution, which,

“As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm;
Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.”

On the 14th of February, 1821, a committee was appointed by the Grand Chapter of Upper Canada to draw up a brief sketch of Masonry in this Province, and, although further time was asked and granted at the convocation of the 13th of February, 1822, yet there is