

now only seen in the back woods. Some old specimens of the better class, with their tiny windows, and the once fashionable "gantrel roofs," may still be seen in the north end of the city.

After the commencement of the Revolutionary war Citadel Hill had been, as was then thought, effectively fortified. On the summit, which was then eighty feet higher than it is now, a large wooden octangular block house was perched. Outside of this was an enclosure of ramparts built of earth and timber, on which guns were mounted, and the whole was enclosed by a ditch, and a close line of pickets so set as to slope outwards. On the lower hill, immediately south of this, there had been erected a block house with a small battery. This was named Fort Massey, in compliment to General Massey, who was Commander-in-Chief at Halifax at that time. There was also at this time a small block house and battery opposite the old Dutch Church in Brunswick street, and a similar one at the north end of that street. There was also a barrack in Jacob street called Grenadier Fort, afterwards known as Maynard Place, for some years the residence of the late Rev. Dr. Cochran—now the site of Trinity Church.

Before 1780 the original forest in the immediate vicinity of the little old town must have been felled to a large extent for building purposes, and also to deprive the hostile Indians of a cover for their attacks on the settlers. Government House was then a little low wooden building, situate on the square now occupied by the Province Building. The site of the present Government House was then occupied by a wooden building used as Officers' Quarters. The House of Assembly met in the old building still standing on the north-west corner of Barrington and Sackville streets, long afterwards known as the Halifax Grammar School. The site of the present City Court House was the market place. The Court House of that day was on the north-east corner of Argyle and Buckingham streets, known as Northup's corner. Halifax abounded at that time in houses of entertainment, under the various names of inns, taverns, coffee houses, &c. The most noted of these for a long period was the "Great Pontac," situated at the foot of Duke street, (now occupied by Mr. Bond's hardware store)—the scene of many swell balls and public dinners during the days of its glory. Amongst other fashionable places of the same character were the "British Coffee Arms," north of the Ordnance yard, and the "Crown Coffee House," on the beach near the naval yard, and "Jerusalem Coffee House," where Jerusalem warehouse now stands. Without mentioning other places of the sort, of which there were many, we come to the sign of the "Golden Ball,"

where, one hundred years ago, on St. John the Baptist day—John George Pyke, W.M.; Bros. John Fillis, S.W.; John Cleaveland, J.W.; Leonard Homer, Treasurer; Joseph Peters, Secretary; John Fell, S.D.; Saul King, J.D.; Collis Glen, John O'Brien, Jones, Fawson, and Fitzsimmons, and some visiting brethren dined together, as they always did in those good old days, both on St. John the Baptist's Day and St. John the Evangelist, at the early hour of 2 o'clock, and closed the festivities at 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening—a pretty long day's work, as the Lodge invariably met at 10 in the morning in those days. There is one thing very certain, that our ancient brethren could not give the same excuse as modern Masons are said sometimes to do to the suspicious when out rather late at night—that they had been at the Lodge.

The Golden Ball of that day was a fashionable place of resort for the gentlemen of the town, and was situate in what was then the suburbs of the town, on the site of what is now the residence of James Scott, Esq., corner of Pleasant and Harvey streets. It was one of the very few houses which had then been erected outside of the town proper, i.e., between Salter street and Freshwater. Here the Lodge of St. John held its meetings for seven years, until they removed to the new Lodge room on Grafton street, on the 4th June, 1789.

In the meantime a movement had been inaugurated, in which St. John's Lodge took a prominent part, for the erection of a new Masonic Hall for the accommodation of the craft, and at an emergency meeting, held on the 19th September, 1786, a subscription list was opened for that purpose in the Lodge, amounting to £111—the original signatures to which are inscribed in the minute book of that period. This was probably the inception of what we now call the old Masonic Hall, the corner stone of which was laid on the 5th June, 1800, by H. R. H. the Duke of Kent Grand Master, on the site of the old Government House. Some years previous to this, at an emergency meeting, held on the 22nd November, 1781, at which representatives of Lodge No. 155 and Union Lodge were present, a resolution was passed to apply to the Grand Lodge of England for a Warrant to hold a Provincial Grand Lodge, and Bro. John George Pyke, the first Master of St. John, was unanimously recommended as the first Provincial Grand Master.

The original records of St. John's Lodge were well kept and preserved for the first sixteen years of its existence up to 1796. From that time up to 1810—a period of fourteen years—the minutes are missing, which is much to be regretted, as it embraced a most interesting period of the world's history. Just previous to the Peninsular war there were many of the