

The M. W. the Grand Master replied :

MR. MAYOR,

We are grateful for your cordial welcome, and we will now proceed cheerfully to comply with your kind request.

The M. W. the Grand Master then addressed the large concourse of spectators as follows :

Men, women and children here assembled ; be it known unto you all, that we are lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, bound by solemn obligations to aid in the erection of stately and superb edifices—to be serviceable to our Brethren—to practice universal benevolence—and to fear God who is the Great Architect of the Universe.

We have amongst us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which may not be revealed and which no one has discovered. But these secrets are lawful and honorable, and are placed in the custody of Masons who alone have the keeping of them to the latest generation.

Unless our Craft were good, and our calling honorable, we would not have existed for so many centuries, nor would we have had so many illustrious Brothers in our Order ever ready to sanction our proceedings, and contribute to our prosperity.

We are assembled here to-day, in the face of you all, to assist in building a house, which we pray God may prosper in the grand objects for which it is about to be erected, by becoming a place of concourse for great and worthy men, and promoting harmony, prosperity and brotherly love amongst this people and throughout the world till time shall be no more.

Brethren—So mote it be.

G.M.—Our R. W. Grand Chaplain will now implore a blessing from Heaven on our undertaking.

R. W. Grand Chaplain—

Almighty and Eternal God, the glorious Architect and Ruler of the Universe, at whose creative fiat all things first were made, we, the frail creatures of Thy Providence, humbly implore Thee to bless us in all the purposes of our present assembly.

Grant, we beseech Thee, a blessing on this foundation stone. May