

MASSACHUSETTS.—1891.

THE only proceedings we have of this Grand Lodge is a report of the quarterly meeting of March, 11th 1891. The business was routine, receiving reports from the Committee on Trials, &c. The Recording Grand Secretary read a paper, entitled, "First Glimmerings of Masonry in North America." It begins with the statement that the earliest trace of the existence of Masons or Masonry on this continent, is afforded by a letter, now in possession of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, written by Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of Boston, the celebrated Chemist and Geologist. It is dated June 2, 1856 and relates that when the writer and Francis Alger made a mineralogical survey of Nova Scotia in 1827, they discovered, upon the shore of Goat Island, in Annapolis Basin, a gravestone, partly covered with sand and lying on the shore. It bore the Masonic emblems, square and compass, and had the figures 1606 cut upon it. The rock was a flat slab of trap rock, common in the vicinity.

At the ferry from Annapolis to Granville, they saw a large rounded rock with the inscription "La Belle, 1649." These inscriptions says Dr. Jackson, were undoubtedly intended to commemorate the place of burial of French soldiers who came to Nova Scotia "Annapolis Royal l'Acadie." in 1603. Coins, buttons and other articles, originally belonging to these early French settlers, are found in the soil of Goat Island in Annapolis Basin. The slab bearing date 1606, Dr. Jackson had brought over, packed in a box to be sent to the Old Colony Pilgrim Society of Plymouth, Mass., but Judge Haliburton, (better known as Sam Slick) prevailed on Dr. Jackson to abandon it to him, and he then in 1856, had it in careful preservation. The letter was accompanied by a photograph of the stone showing the square and compasses and the figures 1606, rudely cut and much worn by time and weather, but still quite distinct. Judge Thomas C. Haliburton (Sam Slick) was born in Nova Scotia in 1796, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1820, and Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 1840. In 1842 he removed to England, became a member of Parliament and died in office in 1865.