

some time in clearing the ground at one part of the harbor, they were obstructed by obstacles, and had to change the location of the intended city to the present site. When the first log house was erected, Governor Cornwallis named the new city "Halifax," in honor of the Earl of Halifax, who, as already said, promoted the expedition. The adventurers had no time to lose, winter was coming, and some kind of shelter had to be provided; we naturally imagine, therefore, that when they viewed the row of shanties raised by their industry in so short a time, they were as proud of their handiwork as Jack was of the house he built, and naturally reasoned thus: if we could accomplish so much in so short a time, in a hundred years hence this city ought to equal ancient Rome, Athens, and what not.

No sooner were the settlers housed, than the brethren of the *mystic tie* organized a Masonic Lodge, of which Governor Cornwallis was elected W. M. The Lodge obtained its charter from Erasmus James Philips, of Annapolis, and on the 19th of July, 1750, the new lodge was opened, and some of the Navy gentlemen were initiated, including Lord Colvil: It is evident, therefore, that the annexed poem must have been intended either for the opening night of the first Lodge, or for some festival which took place soon after; it may, therefore, be pronounced the oldest Masonic poem written in Halifax, or as far as we know, it may be the first Masonic poem composed in America. So, good, bad or indifferent, I think it deserves to be reprinted, and here it is.

Respectfully yours,

Boston, May 12th, 1874.

JACOB NORTON.

AN ADDRESS TO THE MASONS AT HALIFAX.

By a Brother.

When first from nothing, at th' Almighty's call,
 Came this unbounded, this stupendous ALL,
 And that the Heaven's and Earth's foundation laid,
 Were by unerring Wisdom perfect made,
 Beauty and Strength in due proportion joined,
 To harmonize the particles combined;
 In various life th' unnumbered myriads rise,
 Peopling the Earth, the Ocean, and Skies.
 But man created last, tho' first in worth,
 Was made the Lord and Sovereign o'er the Earth;
 After his Maker's image formed, his mind
 For more superior knowledge was designed;
 But disobedience wrought his hap'less fall,
 And sore defaced the fair Original.
 Thence Science as his progeny arose,
 More difficult the lovely arts disclose;
 And first in Architecture's charms unskilled,
 Taught by necessity they rudely build,
 By slow Degrees, towns in some order rise,
 'Till tow'ring Babel's Builders threat the skies,
 And wrought confusion by their vanities.
 At length, directed by Heaven's Architect.
 Great SOLOMON a Temple doth erect,
 Surpassing every structure far in fame,
 So its wise Founder, ere other name.
 Jehovah's self inhabited the shrine,
 And marked the consecrated work Divine;
 To raise this Dome, arose from distant Parts,
 The Æmulous and Excellent in Arts;
 But he whose Skill was most superlative,
 From whom our sacred secrets we derive,
 The most complete MECHANIC known to fame,
 Needless to tell you BROTHERN his NAME,
 Engraved life's figuring Image'ry most true,
 Wrought linen fine in purple, scarlet, blue,
 Skilful to work in metal, timber, stone,
 And made the circle of the Arts his own.
 May his all perfect PRECEPTS which we boast.
 Prove efficacious to the Foreign Coast,
 Those sacred, solemn secrets which we alone
 Enjoy from sure tradition of our own,
 Inspire us, who the glorious Title bear,