

THE CRAFTSMAN

AND BRITISH AMERICAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. T. & R. WHITE, Publishers. }

“The Queen and the Craft.”

{ \$1.00 PER ANNUM, in advance.

VOL. I.

HAMILTON, C. W., JUNE, 1867.

NO 9.

HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.—No. 2.

BY H. W. BRO. S. D. FOWLER, P. G. S. W.

(Continued.)

For several years prior to 1817, Masonry was at a very low ebb indeed in Upper Canada; there were but few Lodges working, and those irregularly. The war with the United States was perhaps the principal cause of this, and another was the continued indifference to the interests of the Craft shown by the Provincial G. Master.

I have not learned whether the so-called Prov. G. Lodge, at Niagara, continued to meet while the war lasted; most probably it did not. I believe, however, most, if not all, of its records and other property were lost during that time.

With the return of peace, many of the Lodges re-assembled, but the old causes of dissatisfaction again shewed themselves. The Prov. G. Master did nothing, and the Brethren of Niagara were once more claiming to be the Prov. G. Lodge of Upper Canada.

R. W. Bro. Jervis died early in 1817, and on the 17th of May in that year, Addington Lodge, No. 13, Bath, took the initiative in a very important movement by issuing a circular to all the Lodges in the Province, inviting them to meet in convention at Kingston on the 27th August.

This invitation was very generally accepted, and on the day of meeting, representatives from eleven Lodges presented themselves, namely:

- No. 3, Brockville.
- “ 6, Kingston.
- “ 7, Fredericksburgh.
- “ 8, York.
- “ 13, Bath.
- “ 15, Grimsby.
- “ 16, York.
- “ 19, Haldimand.
- “ 25, Richmond.
- “ 26, Augusta.
- “ Rideau.

A larger representation than at any previous Prov. G. Lodge of which we have any record. The minutes of this convention are prefaced by the following preamble:

“Whereas there is not at this time any Grand Lodge existing in this Province, nor any Board or Order vested with authority to perform the important function legitimately pertaining to the office of Grand Master or Grand Secretary, and consequently no head to make or receive communications in the name or behalf of the Craft, the distressed situation of Masonry in this Province has stimulated Lodge No. 13 (“Addington, Bath”) to address

“circular letters to their sister Lodges, wishing them, if they concur in their opinion, that delegates be appointed from their Lodges to meet other delegates at the Lodge Room, at Kingston, on the fourth Wednesday of August, A. L. 5817, to take into consideration the importance of moving an address to the Grand Lodge of England, praying them to take into consideration their cause, and sanction their nomination of a Provincial Grand Master, according to the ancient usages of Masonry.”

Ziba Marcus Phillips was called to the chair as President of the Convention.

Wm. Cottier was appointed Vice-President, and John W. Ferguson, Secretary.

Bro. Roderic Mackay, (who does not appear to have been present,) was nominated for Prov. Grand Master, and a Committee appointed to send him a written notice of his nomination, to which he returned the following answer:

“KINGSTON, 28th Aug., 1817.

“In reply to your letter of yesterday, acquainting me with my nomination as Provincial G. Master of Masons and Masonic jurisdiction by the Grand Masonic Convention of Upper Canada, I beg leave to say that I cannot find language sufficiently strong to express how sensible I am of the distinguished honor conferred on me by the gentlemen, my Brethren, who have so highly valued my humble abilities.”

“I request you, be pleased to express to the President, Assistant, and Moderator of the Convention, the respectful assurance of my gratitude, and I will endeavor, should His Royal Highness see fit to confirm the appointment, by my conduct and the discharge of my duties, to prove myself worthy of the esteem and confidence of my Masonic Brethren.”

“In the manner of your communication, I take the opportunity of presenting my thanks, and with great consideration, I am, &c.”

The following petition was adopted and ordered to be sent to the Grand Master of England.

“To His Royal Highness, Prince Augustus, Frederick Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, in Scotland, Baron of Arklow, in Ireland, Knight of the Garter, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons and Masonic jurisdiction in that part of Great Britain called England, &c., &c.”

“The petition of the undersigned representatives of a number of reputable Lodges in the Province of Upper Canada, and in general convention assembled.”

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

“That Your Royal Highness’ petitioning Brethren are under the painful necessity of announcing to Your Royal Highness the death of Wm. Jervis,