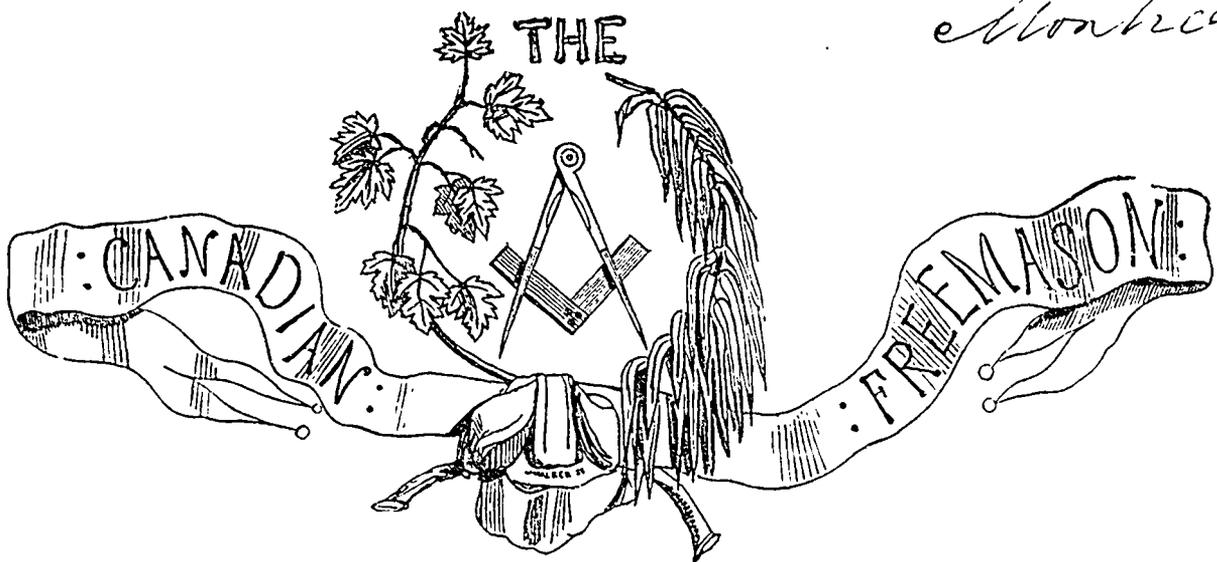


B. Hill  
Montreal



**Semper idem—Semper fidelis.**

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No. 1.

**MASONRY.**

I thought, with shame be it confessed,  
Before I knew the right,  
'Twas nothing but an idle jest,  
Some trifle vain and light;  
But oh! how badly was I taught,  
How ignorant was I;  
I blush at the unworthy thought  
I had of MASONRY!

Those virtues which are best beloved—  
The graces of the mind;  
And sentiments the most approved  
By the noblest of mankind;  
Great zeal without ambitious strife,  
Respect, not flattery,  
And unity in heart and life,—  
Thus, this is MASONRY!

Contented only to be known  
As of that noble band,  
The universe I call my own  
I've friends in every land;  
Home, help, and counsel they impart,  
Nor want, nor need have I.  
For ne'er can hard or selfish heart  
Find place in MASONRY!

**TO OUR READERS.**

The proprietors of the *Canadian Freeman* have been during the last twelve months, in fact, ever since the discontinuance of "*The Pioneer*," earnestly urged to publish in this city a paper to be entirely and exclusively devoted to the interests of Freemasonry, and although well aware of their incapacity to a great extent to do full justice to the task proposed, and of the obstacles always to be encountered in undertakings of a similar nature, yet in view of the actual necessity of such a publication, created by the increased and increasing influence of the order, and of the liberal support, both by pen and purse, promised; and, moreover, actuated by a sincere desire to promote, so far as they are able, the welfare of the order in Canada, they have determined to yield to the wish of their brethren and friends, and in consequence have this

day ventured to present their *first number*, bespeaking for it and its successors the kind indulgence, and the generous and liberal support of those who desire to see established in our midst a Masonic journal.

On their part we promise that *The Canadian Freeman* shall be so guided and governed in its onward course as to keep steadily in view the sole object of its publication, viz., the interests of Freemasonry.

Being new to editorial life, and totally inexperienced in the business and calling of a journalist, we are not ashamed to say that we do feel somewhat alarmed at starting as to "leaders," but mindful of the utter unselfishness of our motives, and the well-known forbearance of those for whom we write, we are encouraged to the task, and hope that ere long, in striving to excel by constant practice and persevering study, our columns will be found both as interesting and instructive as those of any of our contemporaries.

As to our selections, whether in poetry or prose, we feel less anxiety, as we flatter ourselves they will exhibit a judgment and discrimination which will be approved by our readers.

Our columns will at all times be gladly opened to correspondents on Masonic subjects, written in a spirit of charity and brotherly love, reserving, of course, to ourselves the right to publish or reject what may be sent, and we would here add, that in no case is it to be considered that, by publishing, we endorse the views contained in our correspondents' communications. Admitting, as we have already done, our own deficiencies (editorial), we rely to a very great extent on the promised assistance of many of our brethren, "bright and shining lights" in Masonry, and from the admitted masonic knowledge and ability by them already displayed during the

late troublous times, we have but little fear as to the result, and, on the whole, venture to bespeak for "*The Canadian Freeman*," and all interested therein, an agreeable and not unprofitable acquaintance. SO MOTE IT BE.

**TRIBUTE TO FREEMASONRY.**

(From a Speech delivered by R. W. James Burnes, K.H., Prov. G.M. of Bombay, India, on his visit to the Prov. G. L. in Calcutta. Extracted from the Calcutta Courier.)

"The Duke of York, when he sanctioned lodges in the army, foresaw their advantages, not only as inducing the soldier to obtain and retain a character, but in conferring on him also a sure protection in the time of need. Every one knows that even in the fury of the late war, the charters, diplomas, and insignia of lodges used to be returned with courtesy after an engagement. I am old enough to recollect when my own father, the master of a lodge, and a magistrate, took the responsibility of removing some French prisoners from jail to his own house, because they were brethren. And it was only last night that Col. Logan, a brave officer of the Peninsula, but no Mason, mentioned to me an authentic anecdote, which will interest you. A whole battalion of the 4th Foot, had been taken prisoners, and the officers stripped of everything. Several of them were bemoaning their lot in a dreary abode, when to their surprise they saw a subaltern of their corps passing along with a gay step, in full dress. The explanation was very simple. Having been discovered to be a Mason, his uniform and baggage had been immediately restored to him, and he was then going by special invitation to dine with the French Field Marshal! Some of you may have heard the revered Brother Blaquier, whose Masonic reminiscences,