

MASONIC PRESENTATION.

On Thursday evening, at an emergent meeting of St. George's Lodge C.R., a considerable number of other brethren assembled to take part in the presentation of an address and testimonial to M. W. Bro. Bernard for his services in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada. R. W. Bro. Stevenson, Master of St. George's Lodge and D. D. G. M., presided, R. W. Bro. Morris of Antiquity Lodge, and W. Bro. Himes of Zetland Lodge, being also present. The occasion was also graced by the presence of M. W. Bro. Tucker, G. M. of Vermont. The testimonial consisted of a large massive and beautifully chased silver tray, coffee urn and tea set, profusely adorned with masonic emblems. It was manufactured by Bro. Poffnung, and does great credit to his workmen. On the tray was engraved the following inscription:

THIS TRAY

WITH A SILVER TEA SET AND COFFEE URN

Was presented to

M. W. BRO. BERNARD, P.G.M., P.D.G.M.
P.M. of St. GEORGE'S LODGE No. 19 C.R.
and Honorary Member of the Lodge of Antiquity
St. George's Lodge No. 19 and Zetland
Lodge No. 21 C.R.

BY A NUMBER OF HIS

MASONIC BRETHREN

To mark their appreciation of his devotion to
the cause of

CANADIAN MASONRY.

Montreal, October 25, 1860.

The following address was presented on behalf
of the subscribers by Bro. Stevenson:—

M. W. BRO. A. BERNARD P.G.M.:

M. W. Sir & Brother,—It is at all times a gratifying circumstance to know, that honest effort in any good cause is correctly estimated and duly appreciated. That such is the case in regard to the services rendered by you in the cause of Canadian Freemasonry, the present demonstration is intended to afford you the unmistakable assurance. To no one, M. W. Sir, do the brethren feel themselves under greater indebtedness, than to yourself, for the noble and manly stand you have always taken in behalf of their interests. The prominent position which your commanding talents properly assigned you in connexion with the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada was one of no ordinary importance and responsibility; and in the discharge of the arduous duties that consequently devolved upon you, the zeal and ability manifested at all times and on all occasions, will ever entitle you to the warmest thanks of the Masons of Canada. In the great struggle for Masonic independence and fraternal recognition, which followed the ever memorable action of the Hamilton Convention, it fell to your lot to play a very conspicuous and distinguished part. By night or by day, at home or abroad, whenever or wherever a word could be spoken or a sentence written, which would advance the cause of the Grand Lodge of Canada, your tongue and your pen were ever ready to utter that word, or to pen that sentence. Instinctively obeying the promptings of a warm and generous heart, and regardless alike of personal inconvenience and pecuniary expenditure, your indefatigable zeal and unwearied exertion has been instrumental, in an eminent degree, in placing our Grand Lodge in the high and honorable position which she now occupies.

To your own mind, M. W. Sir, we feel assured that the best reward for all your toil, is found in the consciousness of having fearlessly and faithfully performed your duty, even though it did, for a time, subject you to unmerited contumely and reproach. Amidst the many, who, at the period already referred to, were distinguished only for their falterings and fickleness, your courageous and spirited example, in taking the correct and manly stand you then took, and have ever since so triumphantly maintained, served to inspire confidence in the minds of your brethren, and to give a vigorous impulse to the success of the cause.

That your efforts have neither been unnoticed

nor forgotten, the action of the Grand Lodge of Canada, at its last annual communication, bears abundant testimony. The honor then conferred upon you, M. W. Sir, was a well-merited recognition of the services rendered by you to the craft in Canada, and afforded the utmost satisfaction to your numerous friends in both sections of the province.

Another evidence is afforded in the action of the brethren of your Mother Lodge, St. George's, No. 19, O.R., who, desirous of perpetuating the remembrance of one who enjoys so fully their confidence and esteem, have recently appropriated the necessary funds to procure a copy of yourself; and we have this evening, Mr W. Sir, the honor and the gratification of placing on the walls of our Lodge Room your portrait, (faithfully executed by a member of the Lodge,) where we hope it will long continue to adorn our walls, and to stimulate others to follow in your footsteps.

In order also to manifest, in some slight degree, the fraternal esteem and regard in which you are held, the brethren connected with the various Lodges in Montreal, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, have procured this service of plate, which they now present to you, "to mark their appreciation of your devotion to the cause of Canadian Freemasonry."

We humbly trust, M. W. Sir, that you will be long spared to wear your well-earned honors, and that the brethren may continue to enjoy for many years to come, the pleasure of that congenial fraternal intercourse and friendship, with which they have hitherto been privileged; and our prayer is that when your sun shall have sunk beneath the Western terrestrial horizon, you may be assigned a place in the Celestial Grand Lodge, where the Divine Architect of the Universe lives and reigns for ever.

On behalf of the St. George's Lodge and the subscribers to the testimonial.

A. A. STEVENSON,
DAVID MOSS,
A. W. OGILVIE, } Committee.

Bro. Bernard replied as follows:—

R. W. SIR AND BRETHREN:

One would require to be either more or less than human, not to be deeply moved on an occasion like this by an address such as that you have just now presented.

In ascribing to me honest and persevering exertions to assist in achieving Canadian Masonic independence, and in establishing a Canadian system of Masonic government, you do me no more than simple justice. I cannot but think, however, that the Masonic abilities I have displayed and the services I have rendered, have been over-estimated, and that I have already been honored and rewarded more than I deserved. You are perfectly right in assuming that my greatest reward and my highest pleasure is found in the consciousness of having tearlessly and faithfully performed my duty.

To you, R. W. Master and to the officers and brethren of St. George's Lodge, I desire to express my warmest and most sincere thanks for the honor you have done me in placing my portrait upon the walls of your lodge room. This additional mark of your fraternal kindness was not needed to make me sensible of the great debt of obligation I owe to my mother lodge. From almost the commencement of my Masonic career, its favors and its honors, as its records will show, have been freely bestowed upon me. And, without detracting from other sources of support, I may truthfully say, that what little I have had to do in promoting the interests of Freemasonry, has been largely due to the position in which this lodge placed me, and to the support it never failed to afford me.

To the brethren generally connected with the various lodges in Montreal under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, I am deeply grateful for this valuable testimonial intended, as the inscription it bears indicates, to mark their appreciation of my devotion to the cause of Canadian Freemasonry. Its intrinsic value, its appropriate Masonic emblems, and its home manufacture—indicating as they do, the liberality, the good taste, and the well-founded confidence of my brethren, in Canadian capabilities, would, of themselves,

make it an object ever to be most highly prized by me.

But that which imparts to it an estimable value, and which will cause me to preserve it with the greatest care down to the latest hour of my life, and to transmit it as an heir-loom to my children is, that it comes to me as an expression of approval of my humble but honest efforts to advance the best interests of our venerable and truly beneficent institution in this Province; that it comes to me as a memento of the fraternal regard and good fellowship of those Masonic brethren who have known me longest and who know me best.

I accept your beautiful offering then, brethren, with inexpressible gratitude and pleasure. Its presence through future life will daily remind me of your kindness and generosity, while it shall admonish me to cultivate, and invite me more rigidly to practice those virtues which are inculcated and enjoined in all the ceremonies, symbols and teachings of our beloved Order.

After this pleasing ceremony was concluded, the brethren present were invited by Bro. Bernard to adjourn for refreshment to Bro. Coleman's Montreal House, where he had caused a splendid supper to be prepared for them. After justice had been done to the viands, Bro. Bernard called for bumpers, and proposed

"The Queen and the craft," which was drunk with all the honors, Bro. Stevenson leading in the National Anthem.

Next came "Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family," also drunk with the honors and three additional cheers for the Prince of Wales.

Bro. BERNARD next in an eloquent speech proposed the health of the M. W. Grand Master Harrington and the Grand Lodge of Canada, alluding to the labors of the founders of the Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Canada had now 150 lodges in connection with it distributed over a country 1600 miles in length by 200 in width. It was no petty province, no despicable jurisdiction, but one of the most important upon the continent. Drunk with masonic honors.

Bro. STEVENSON responded, expressing his regret that the Grand Master had been unable to be present.

Bro. BERNARD next proposed a health never drunk in Montreal before under like circumstances, which he was most proud and happy to propose then. He need not enter into a history of the merits of the subject of the toast; he was before them—(pointing to Bro. Tucker.) The Canadian Masons owed him a debt of gratitude, for at a time when, as they had heard, other grand lodges hesitated and hung back, declining to recognize their independent action, when they were proscribed by a portion of the Masonic world, their most worshipful brother and the Grand Lodge over which he presided was the first to hold out the hand of fellowship and to give them an official recognition. It was the co-operation of that distinguished brother, thus secured, that was the beginning of their successes, which terminated in their recognition by the Grand lodges of England and Scotland. The M. W. Brother was well known everywhere in the Masonic world for his able writings in the cause of the Order. He had been a Mason in the times when the Order was proscribed, and laws passed, preventing Masons from holding any office in the State. But, as he had heard him say, he never gave up the cause. He hurled his flag, but did not strike it, waiting for happier times, when he again unfurled it to the breeze.

Drunk with all the honors.

Bro. TUCKER responded in an eloquent and humorous speech, full of wit and instruction. He described very vividly the circumstances under which application was made by Bro. Bernard on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the manner in which he saw the case—how he was impressed with the necessity for and justice of the demand for self-government in Masonic matters by the Masons of a great country like this. He told how Vermont was condemned for her action by other Grand Lodges in the United States, but how one after another all gave in, Puritan Massachusetts coming last and acknowledging it to be a successful revolution. He had only done what he con-