



Semper idem—Semper fidelis.

PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS BY BROTHER HILL, No. 2 PLACE D'ARMES, MONTREAL.

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1860.

No. 4.

The Canadian Freemason

A Journal devoted to the interests of Freemasonry, is published monthly, by Bro. Hill, at his Book Store,

No. 2 Place d'Armes, Montreal.

It contains the most interesting new relative to the craft, report of the Grand Lodges, &c., while the original articles coming as they do from the pens of Brothers of known ability, as Masonic writers, will, we trust, be found both interesting and instructive. All communications on Masonic subjects, jurisprudence, exchanges, &c., must be addressed to Dr. Cunynghame, Editor of the Canadian Freemason, and on all other matters connected with the journal to the publisher.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION :

\$1.00 per annum if paid in advance, \$1.50 if paid three months after the time of subscribing.

LECTURE

Delivered before the members of the Masonic Order and the Public, in the Town Hall, Woodstock, on the occasion of the celebration of St. John's day, (25th June, 1860), by Br. H. N. Courtlandt, of Otterville, and published in conformity with the wishes of the meeting and the Lodges.

Worshipful Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Respected Brethren :—

It devolves upon me to address you to day, upon a topic vast in its proportions as the universe of God, glorious in its aims that language cannot adequately picture it, and in its results, beautiful and grand. It has for its basis the words and principles of Eternal Truth, benevolence and love, and all the works of the Deity for its illustration. Need I tell you, that that topic is Freemasonry ?

Masonry being thus vast, thus grand and thus beautiful, it would be impossible within the compass of an address for the most gifted intellect and the most eloquent tongue, to exhibit, what volumes have been written to image to the world, and I, being a mere neophyte in the great Tem-

ple, shall feel amply satisfied if I succeed in placing before you only a few features of this noble and time honoured institution. Although speculative masonry is in a more flourishing condition at the present time, both on this continent and in many countries of the old world; and although the fullest information concerning it is easily accessible to all who will seek it, yet a large portion of mankind are ignorant of its nature, misconceive its aims, and remain blind to its happy effects upon the human race.

If I were addressing craftsmen alone, there are many things of a purely *esoteric* nature, to which their attention this day might be fitly and profitably directed, but I shall on the present occasion, endeavour very briefly to trace the history of this beautiful science, notice its genius and effects, and reply to some of the aspersions with which our Institution has been assailed.

The principles of Masonry are coeval with the creation, for the Sovereign Architect himself, upon those principles, organized the boundless firmament and constructed those wonderful systems of suns and worlds which beautify the expanse of heaven's concave. By His Command, that noblest of sciences, Geometry, the corner stone and foundation of operative masonry, adjusted those vast heavens whose motions intricate yet simple, exhibit to us the perfection of sublimity, and whose nice dependencies and harmonious relations astonish and delight the cultivated mind. The same wondrous science was commanded to raise and adorn the earth, and fit it for the habitation of one, who was to be created in the image of his maker. Our common parent, no doubt, had the various sciences, but especially geometry, engraven upon his heart by the Great Grand Master. No doubt, he also taught his sons this science, and its application to the arts and crafts suitable to those rude and early times; for we are told that Cain built a city which he named after his first born son. Other arts were also improved, such as working in metal, the construction of musical instruments, and the craft of tent-making. Seth also, who delighted in astronomical research, no doubt, taught geometry and masonry to his offspring. Many useful discoveries were made in that early day by its principles, some of which are set forth in the writings of the great Jewish historian, and the Nilotic valley the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, the plains of India, and the dense jungles of Burmah, have in these latter days, furnished the most convincing testimony, of the comparative perfection of masonry of the remote ages of antiquity. The curious and thoughtful craftsman, may go back, upon the pri-

ous of his immortal spirit, into the dim and mysterious abyss of past eternity, when the globe upon which he treads was a thin and impalpable ether, spread through the regions of surrounding space, when the sun, and all his attendant worlds, were as the almost invisible nebulae of the milky way; when chaos existed and darkness brooded over the unformed matter out of which the deity would call into being, the symmetry and beauty of the universe. "But he spake the word, and order rose out of disorder, harmony and proportion, out of disorder and a shapeless mass; the foundations of the world were laid; the arch of heaven hung with its glittering constellations, the waters were rolled into a heap, day was divided from night, all living creatures that float in air, or swim in the waters, rejoiced in their fresh existence." Every part of creation began to obey a general law, and to perform its appropriate functions in the system of the universe. And the Great Architect and Geometrician said, "Let light be, and light was." Thus the essence of the Deity pervaded the whole of his mighty workmanship, the signet of divine wisdom, was impressed upon every part of his handiwork. The vast and almost incomprehensible changes which our planet has undergone; the successive creations and destructions of animal and vegetable life; the mighty upheavings of the interior of the world, bringing to its surface exhaustless riches, upon which masonic skill could be exerted; causing the monotonous plain, desert and dreary, to present an ever changing variety of beauty, and sublimity, in the mountain chain and valley, the gentle hill and dale, the glen and glade, the fast flowing river, fertilizing continents, and the little rill trickling amidst the moss. The gigantic Dinosaurium the swiftly darting plesiosaurus, and the curiously formed Pterodactyl, the enamelled plated cephalopod, the stately dinornis, the gigantic tree ferns, beauteous shrubs and colossal trees; yes, the whole Fauna and Flora of Creation's morning, exhibited creation's Architect in bold relief. When he therefore called man to stand forth from the dust of the ground, and breathed into him a reasonable soul, an undying spirit, one of the first and noblest exercises of the faculties thus given to him, was to consider the wonders by which he was surrounded, to trace the wisdom and power of the Deity through the mazes of nature's secrets, to conform himself to the wisdom of the Most High, whose glorious attributes he acknowledged with reverence, with gratitude and love.

With the dawn of creation then, began the work of the mason. To understand the measures of