

from the Athol Grand Lodge, (so called from its Grand Master,) and here we have in many instances an unbroken line of succession from 1794 to the present day.

Early in 1792, Bro. Wm. Jervis was appointed Secretary and Registrar of the Province of Upper Canada, and previous to his departure from England, to assume the duties of that office, he was created Provincial Grand Master by the (Athol) Grand Lodge of England.

The following is a copy of his appointment, "Athol Grand Master; Watkin Lewis, Senior Grand Warden; John Bunn, Junior Grand Warden," (and enumerating their titles, &c.) "Assembled in London on this 7th day of March, 1792, and in the year of Masonry 5792, with the representatives of the several warranted Lodges, held under the sanction and authority of the said Grand Lodge, in order to remedy the inconveniences arising from the delays and distances in communicating with this Grand Lodge upon various occasions by the warranted Lodges in Upper Canada held under our authority, and to facilitate the establishment of new Lodges, and in order, more effectually and speedily, to rectify and determine all masonic differences, and disputes and controversies, if any such should arise between the brethren now resident in the said province of Upper Canada, it was this day in Grand Lodge resolved, that a warrant be granted appointing a Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Upper Canada, who shall be invested with the full and ample powers, privileges, and authority, by the Constitution of Masonry, annexed to and vested in the said office of Provincial Grand Master.

"In pursuance whereof we do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint our trusty and well beloved Brother William Jervis, Esq., of Upper Canada, aforesaid, Grand Master of Masonry in the said province, and invest our R. W. Brother with full and ample powers, privileges, and authority, hereby authorizing and empowering our said R. W. Brother to grant Dispensations for the holding of Lodges, and making of Free Masons, to such brethren as shall be sufficiently qualified and duly recommended to receive the same, in order that such Lodges and Freemasons may be by us and our successors duly congregated and formed into regular warranted Lodges, according to the most ancient custom of the Craft in all ages and nations throughout the world, in order to which the said dispensations shall continue in force for the space of 12 calendar months from the time of issuing the same respectively and no longer. And we do by these presents further authorize, appoint, and empower our said R. W. Bro. to rectify irregularities, and to hear, adjudge, and determine all and singular matters of complaint, controversies and differences, if any such should arise, relative to the craft, when and as often as the same may occur, in any of our said Warranted Lodges or Masonic Bodies, or between the Brothers thereof, residing or being in the said province of Upper Canada aforesaid, strictly requiring all, and every, our worthy Brethren in the said province, to be conformable to all the orders and decrees which shall be made, and to all things done by our R. W. Brother, in pursuance hereof, and to aid and assist our said R. W. Brother, he our said R. W. Brother duly

"conforming to all the known and established Rules and Regulations of the Ancient Craft.

"And we do by these presents further authorize and empower our said R. W. Brother to nominate and appoint his Deputy Grand Master, in and over the said province, who shall be invested with the same powers, privileges, and authority, to act for our said R. W. Brother, our Provincial Grand Master, aforesaid, in his absence, or by his direction or desire, hereby ratifying and confirming whatever our said R. W. Provincial Grand Master or his deputy shall legally do in the due execution of their respective offices aforesaid."

"Given under our hands, and the seal of the Grand Lodge in London, the day and year above written. (Signed),

ROBERT LESLIE,  
Grand Secretary."

Unfortunately R. W. Bro. Jervis was either very ignorant of the important duties devolving upon him as P. G. Master, or was very careless in performing them, perhaps both, for he allowed his subordinates to act pretty much as they pleased. The principal of these, Christopher Danby, who brought out the patent of the P. G. M. from England, was introduced to him as a good working mason, and was consequently looked upon as an oracle. He managed or was allowed to take the lead in the government of the craft, and to him are attributed those first deviations from Masonic law and usage which were so disastrous to the craft in Upper Canada for many years.

There do not appear, so far as I can learn, to have been any Lodges constituted under the patent of Bro. Jervis till 1794, in which year dispensations were granted for one year for the holding of at least six Lodges, among which was this Lodge then called No. 6, (opened on 7th Aug.,) the others were

- No. 1, Niagara.
- " 2, Queenston.
- " 3, Queens Rangers.
- " 4, Niagara.
- " 5, Edwardsburg.

When the year expired, instead of procuring warrants from England as he should have done, and as his patent directed he should do, the P. G. Master, no doubt under the influence and advice of Bro. Danby, issued warrants in perpetuity to all the above named Lodges, a thing he never would have done had he even read over the authority under which he professed to act.

In 1797 the Government was removed from Newark (now Niagara) to York (now Toronto), and Bro. Jervis necessarily took up his residence in that place; the provincial Grand Lodge however continued its functions in Niagara without the presence or interference of the P. G. Master.

Up to 1799 there had been added 9 Lodges to the 6 already in existence, viz:

- No. 7, Fredericksburgh.
- " 8 York.
- " 9, Bertie.
- " 10, Barton.
- " 11, Mohawk Village, Grand River.
- " 12, Stamford.
- " 13, New Johnstone, Elizabethtown.
- " 14, Southwold.