

**Presentation to M. W. Bro. Matheson.
P. G. M. of Manitoba.**

A large number of the Brethren, together with many ladies, assembled in the Masonic Hall, Winnipeg, on the evening of the 29th ult., the occasion being the presentation of a Past Grand Master's Apron to M. W. Bro. Rev. S. P. Matheson, P.G.M. Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The chair was occupied by M. W. Bro. J. H. Bell, Grand Master, who made the presentation, and who, after a few words of welcome, announced that he had a pleasing duty to perform, in accordance with the decision of the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and explained that the Apron was the gift of the Fraternity at large. He then proceeded to read the following address:—

Most Worshipful Bro. Rev. Samuel P. Matheson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, A. F. & A. M.

It is with no ordinary feelings that I this night perform the duty of presenting you this Past Grand Master's apron in behalf of the Grand Lodge, and in accordance with a motion unanimously passed at the last annual communication. It is to me a matter of unqualified pleasure that I as Grand Master have the honor of thus investing my predecessor with this mark and testimonial of the esteem and of the grateful feelings of the Craft in this Province for your success in healing the unfortunate differences amongst us, which existed here when you were elected to the office of Grand Master.

Your Masonic career has been a marked one, and from its beginning circumstances have allowed me to watch it with care, knowing you as I have for years, you having been Senior Warden of Hiram Lodge when I filled the office of Worshipful Master, my successor to that office, and then Grand Master during part of the time while I served Grand Lodge as its Grand Secretary; each period of time as it passed away has only increased my respect for you as a man and Mason, and bound me closer

to you by the ties of love. During the trying time of the Masonic difficulties before referred to, the Craft at large learned to know you; they appreciated the nobility of your nature; they understood the true inwardness of your loving, generous heart; and came to be well aware of your unselfish devotion, and the sacrifices you were always willing to make in the interests of Masonry.

In the olden time, Most Worshipful Sir, it was the custom to crown the hero of the festival with a chaplet of flowers or of laurel, and to strew palms before the conqueror; emblematically we would to-night lay before you the palms of victory, and weave for your honored brow a chaplet. A chaplet not formed with leaves or flowers, which fade and wither in a day, but one composed of the immortelles of love and affection, jammed with the jewels of faith, hope and charity.

To yourself, yet in life's rosy morn, with a record which will bear the closest inspection, we trust that those days of your official connection with the Craft will afford some pleasant memories, and that you will treasure them in your heart, and ever deem them becoming to the dignity of your more mature manhood.

To us as Masons it is ever healthily to contemplate a pure life, and devoted to the peace and harmony of mankind generally, and to the Craft in particular; and it is more healthily to follow the precepts of its silent but persuasive influence, and I have no doubt the members of the Grand Lodge will find it healthily and wise to consider M.W. Bro. Matheson's Masonic career a good example for his successor in office for all time.

This Past Grand Master's apron now presented to you is the gift of the Fraternity at large, and we trust that it may long remain as a memento that you are united to that ancient mystic Order whose votaries are found in every clime, and who hail each other on every sea, that you are a part of that unseen cable reaching around the globe, each link a brother's love. In the Mother Land it is proudly worn as one of his brightest honors by the heir to England's throne, you have occupied the same relations to the Craft in this part of the British Empire that the Prince of Wales now does to the Craft of England. With this apron comes a benediction from every true Craftsman; while the Allseeing Eye is upon you, may you ever be reminded that He who watches the lonely sparrow's flight, will take notice of your life voyage. May that thought cheer you in the silent watches of the night, when danger faces you in your journeys over the bleak prairie in winter when you are attending to the duties of your sacred calling and the snow