

J. Conner
B. Hill
Montreal



“Memor et Fidelis.”

VOL. I.]

MONTREAL, JUNE 2, 1856.

[No. 1.

Introductory Address.

Not without much trouble, some expense, and considerable anxiety of mind we this day issue our first number of “THE CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER,” the only paper, we believe, ever yet published in this Province whose pages are to be exclusively devoted to Free-masonry.

The want of a fitting organ of the Canadian Freemasons has been for some time past, but more particularly of late, severely felt. Matters of great moment to the fraternity at large have very recently been transpiring in our midst, without the opportunity or possibility of individual members of the craft investigating the merits or demerits of these matters, so amply as their importance demands; and thus it happens that all, or nearly all, the masonic knowledge and law applicable to such subjects have been confined to the few, whilst amongst the many a lamentable ignorance has prevailed. To supply this want, to extend Masonic information, and generally to advance the interest and welfare of Masonry, are the prime objects of the projectors of “*The Canadian Masonic Pioneer*.” We neither expect nor desire to make a remunerative speculation by the issue of our paper: if we benefit the cause of Masonry generally, and at the same time barely cover our actual expenses, we shall be content, satisfied with the knowledge that the honor, glory, and reputation of the institution owe something to our labors, and that our efforts to be of some use have not been altogether unsuccessful.

The *Pioneer* will be conducted on strictly Masonic principles. We shall be slow to take offence, and specially careful to offer none. The old and established landmarks of the fraternity, being dear to us, we shall steadily ad-

here to; the constitution of the order we shall faithfully uphold and maintain—we shall fearlessly and honestly assert our own particular opinions, treating those, however, of others, with deference and respect. Above all, we shall be careful to maintain and support, in their fullest splendor, those truly masonic tenets of our profession, viz., *brotherly love, relief, and truth*. We shall be found zealous supporters of the Grand Lodge of Canada, believing it to be a regularly constituted and established Masonic body, and one calculated to confer immense benefits on the craft throughout the Province. We wish particularly to draw the attention of our readers to a series of articles on the subject of the Grand Lodge of Canada, its formation, and probable utility, which will appear at regular intervals in our paper. If the arguments we may advance on this question should seem unsound, illogical, or not conclusive, we freely offer our columns to any party desirous of controverting them, promising a fair and patient hearing; and we are the more encouraged to do so because we feel that the principles involved in the ultimate success of the Grand Lodge of Canada are of vast importance, and will doubtless hereafter be adduced as precedents whereby similar movements in the fraternity will be governed; we therefore conceive, that so long as a single doubt remains unexplained, we shall be but fulfilling an evident duty in offering every facility to have that doubt carefully and guardedly examined and scrutinized, so that a just and proper conclusion may be finally established in the premises.

With this brief address to the readers of our first number, we appeal to them *without scruple or diffidence*, for co-operation and support, and doubt not but that our appeal will be libe-

rally and cheerfully responded to, promising on our part to relax nothing in our efforts to make “*The Canadian Masonic Pioneer*” a welcome and wished for visitor. *Par sit fortuna labori*.

Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The next regular communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada will take place at Hamilton, on the 9th of July next. Business of the utmost importance to the craft will be transacted at that meeting. It is, therefore, very desirable that the Lodges, generally, should be represented. The Grand Officers will be elected—the Constitution and Regulations revised, the affiliated Lodges numbered and many questions of paramount interest settled. We would respectfully suggest to those Lodges which give the Grand Lodge of Canada their decided and cordial approval, but are not yet affiliated with it, the propriety of at once coming forward, receiving their warrants, and taking part in the proceedings, which must prove of vast and vital importance to the interests of Masonry in Canada.

The members of Zetland and St. George’s Lodge of this city, are particularly fortunate in securing the services of Brother R. J. Fowler, as their organist, he being, doubtless, one of the most accomplished musicians in the province. We strongly recommend the introduction of music into the Lodges, because, as Mackey hath it, as “the concord of sweet sounds” elevates the generous sentiments of the soul, so should the concord of good feeling reign among the brethren, that by the union of friendship and brotherly love, the bisterous passions may be lulled, and harmony exist throughout the craft.