

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYES, F.D.D.G.M.,
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XVII.

PORT HOPE, ONT., MAY 15, 1888.

No. 5.

MASONRY IN ENGLAND'S NOBLE FAMILIES.

In our brief obituary a short time since of the Earl of Wemyss and March, Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, it was pointed out that the deceased nobleman was the fourth of his family who, since 1748 inclusive, had held that distinguished position in the Scottish Craft. This is by no means a solitary instance in which Masonry appears to have found favor in the eyes of successive generations of the same family, and it will probably interest not a few of our readers if we enumerate a few of them.

As regards the Royal Family, their almost continuous association with the Craft since 1798 is so well known that we need say little more than that from that year onwards till now every generation has been represented in Masonry. Frederick, Prince of Wales, his sons, the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Gloucester; their nephews, George, Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York, Clarence (afterwards William IV.), Kent, Cumberland, and Sussex, and Prince William of Gloucester, son of the above Duke of Gloucester; George V. of Hanover, son of Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, afterwards King of Hanover; the present Prince of Wales and the Dukes of Connaught and Albany,

grandsons of the Duke of Kent; and their cousin, the present Duke of Cumberland. It is only during the 15 years that elapsed between 1751, when Frederick, Prince of Wales, died, and 1766, when his sons, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, were initiated, that Freemasonry since 1797 has been unable to boast a Royal Craftsman.

Of other families which have been again and again represented in successive generations in our Fraternity, a very conspicuous instance will be found in the "Dukes of Athole." John, third Duke, was Grand Master of the "Ancients," 1771-74, and from him they obtained their other designation of "Athole" Masons. John, fourth Duke, was Grand Master of the same body from 1775 to 1781, and again from 1791 to 1813; both these noblemen having been also Grand Masters of Scotland. George, sixth Duke, was Grand Master of Scotland from 1843 to 1863; and John, the seventh and present Duke, is Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire West.

Equally conspicuous is the connection with Masonry of the Earls of Dalhousie, of whom George, eighth Earl, was Grand Master of Scotland