

ADDRESS BY MOST WOR. BRO. A. T. FREED

Sunday was a day that will occupy a prominent place in the history of Burlington lodge, A. F. & A. M., it having been marked by the annual sermon, in St. Luke's Anglican church, and the unveiling, by Grand Master A. T. Freed, of a monument erected by the members of The Barton lodge of this city, to the memory of Wor. Bro. Capt. William Johnson Kerr, the hero of the Battle of Beaver Dam in 1813. A large number of Masons from the city, including the members of Godfrey de Bouillon, Knights Templar, and a large representation of the Barton lodge attended the service and exercises.

The members of the craft assembled at the hall of the Burlington lodge and marched to St. Luke's church in the following order:

Knights Templar.

Representatives of Six Nation Indians.

Visiting brethren from Hamilton, Oakville, Waterdown, Stoney Creek, and Milton.

The Barton lodge.

Burlington lodge.

Grand lodge representatives.

Grand Master Freed.

Long before the hour set for the service, a large congregation had gathered but when the Masons arrived they filled the pretty little church. So that only a few of the outsiders who wished to were able to get inside.

Rev. W. F. Hovey, rector of the church, had charge of the service, and the preacher was Rev. Bro. Canon Abbott, rector of Christ church cathedral, of this city.

As a text, Rev. Canon Abbott took the words: "Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have, give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts III; 67). He explained the context of the verse and said that as Peter and John were entering the temple they were accosted and asked for alms, and although they were poor as

he who asked assistance of them, they gave that which was better than money. That, the speaker said, was one of the beautiful pictures of the Scriptures, and the story had its application in every age. He pointed out that the best help in life was not that represented by money. There were, he was pleased to know, the Peters and Pauls of this day, and they were continually touching the spiritual nature of men. The gifts bestowed on man by his fellowman often made the rich man feel that he had not done all by doing his pocket-book, and also made the poor man feel that he was not shut out of loving charity.

Among the things which man might give to his fellow men, and which were more valuable than money were: Ideas, representing knowledge; moral inspiration, which meant new motives; sympathy, which would tide over disaster, and religion. Those, he said, were found in freemasonry, which, though it opened the door of fancy, was filled with facts, and showed emblems of man's duty to man. No true mason could be a bad man, for masonry makes a believer of the scoffer; a pure man of the impure, and a strong man of the weak. The community was the better for freemasonry, for it created purity, manliness, integrity, sobriety, and industriousness. Its sympathy lightened the load resulting from disaster, and its religion accepted Christ as the Saviour, and the mason who was trying to do his duty was a power in his neighborhood.

At the conclusion of the sermon the brethren gathered in the grave-yard, where, in the presence of a vast congregation, Grand Master A. T. Freed unveiled the monument erected by The Barton lodge to Wor. Bro. Capt. William Johnson Kerr. Before doing so, however, he expressed his pleasure at the presence of representatives of the Six Nation Indians, whose forefathers fought so valiantly at the Battle of Beaver Dam.