

James A. Henderson, P.G.M., in the lodge-room of Crystal Fountain Lodge, No. 889, G. R. C., who stated he had convened this Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of St. Peter's Church (Church of England) about to be erected in the village of North Augusta.

A procession was formed in accordance with the regulations of the Order, and, preceded by the North Augusta silver cornet band, marched to the site of the church, where a halt was made and the ranks opened out and faced inwards, when the acting Grand Master, supported by the Grand Officers, passed to the north-east corner of the building, where a platform had been erected for the Grand Officers.

The opening ceremony was commenced by the acting Grand Chaplain, the Rev. C. L. Worrell, offering up a prayer. The acting Grand Secretary then read the scroll, which, with copies of the various newspapers, and current coins of the Dominion, were deposited in the cavity of the stone.

The Rev. A. H. Coleman, B. A., rector, presented a trowel to the Grand Master, who duly acknowledged the gift and spread the cement. The acting Grand Junior and Senior Wardens and the acting Deputy Grand Master having applied the plumb, the level, and the square to the stone, and having declared it well laid, the acting Grand Master applied his gavel and pronounced the stone "well made, well proved, truly laid, true and trusty." He then strewed it with corn, the emblem of plenty, and poured upon it wine, the emblem of cheerfulness, and anointed it with oil, the emblem of comfort. He then invoked the blessing of the G. A. O. T. U.

The plans of the building were then inspected and delivered to the architect, and the grand honors were then given, after which the acting Grand Master delivered the following eloquent address:—

*Men and Brethren here assembled:—*

With the ceremonies peculiar to

Freemasons, and under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the corner-stone of St. Peter's Church, in the village of South Augusta, has been well and truly laid. The presence of the high officials of our time-honored Order having been requested by the authorities of the church, it was cheerfully accorded, as witness the assemblage of the Grand Lodge, supported by the representatives and brethren of so many lodges.

In this our favored Dominion, the craft is continually called on to lay the corner-stones of public, charitable, and stately buildings, and I am proud to add, of many edifices like the one now proposed to be erected intended for the worship of the "Ever Living God." The Masonic Order alone, of all organized bodies now in existence, has a prescribed form of ceremony for occasions like the present, and though now Speculative Masons, yet we are the true successors of those Operative Masons who reared as well the gigantic Pyramids, the wondrous edifices of Luxor and Palmyra, and the Temple of Solomon, as the glorious Cathedrals, and other sacred fangs. As Freemasons, we have retained all our ancient customs, forms, and working tools, and it must send a thrill of pleasurable emotion through the heart of every Mason, when he remembers that the same forms and ceremonies have been observed to-day with but little variation, allowing for changes incident to passing centuries as were performed in past ages by our ancient brethren. It is a commendable and proper pride which every Freemason has, that he can justly claim to be a member of the most ancient and of the largest of human institutions, numbering as it does sixteen millions of brethren. May we ever hold fast to the principles of Freemasonry, and never by our conduct sully its fair name.

It is a custom hallowed by antiquity, that on occasions like the present, some brief remarks should be made on one or more of the great