and illustrious brethren throughout the civilized world sanctioning our proceedings and contributing to our prosperity.

Ever since the building of King Solomon's Temple, our Order has rendered to the world the most signal service, in cultivating amongst its members, a taste for the liberal arts and sciences, and in promoting a desire for the more general diffusion of scientific knowledge. In former ages, many of the grandest monuments of architectural skill were wholly constructed by the Masonic fraternity, (then a practical operative body) and in later times our assistance is yet required for the performance of such duties as those which you have now solicited at our hands.

It affords us peculiar pleasure to comply with your request to lay with Masonic ceremonies the Foundation Stone of an asylum for that unfortunate class of our fellow creatures— the Deaf and Dumb of the Province of Ontario. The humane objects of such an institution are so thoroughly in unison with the aims and purposes of our Order, that it must be a source of rejoicing to every Freemason, whether present or absent, that the Lord hath inclined the hearts of those in authority to erect this building. Within its walls, hundreds, who have by the decree of an all-wise Providence, been denied the inestimable blessings of hearing and speech, will, we fervently hope, be enabled pleasantly to pass the time of their sojourn here on earth until they reach the other side of the dark river, when every ear will be unstopped, and every tongue unloosed, to unite in the celestial song, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

The establishment of this institution is an evidence of the advanced civilization of the present age, and the recognition of Freemasonry in connection with the proceedings of to-day, is an indication of the enlightened and liberal sentiments which actuate those gentlemen to whom has been entrusted the government of this important portion of the Dominion of Canada.