

useful information to the Craft at large. Through the kindness of Comp. J. D. Dash, P. H. P. of Royal Union Chapter, who has always taken a deep interest in the preservation of information in connection with the early history of the Craft in this Province, we have obtained the original Minute Book of the first Mark Lodge on this continent.

"Upon examining these old documents, they are found to range from November 16th, 1784, to April 25th, 1825, and refer to the Mark degree in St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 155 (now No. 1, R. N. S.), Artillery Lodge, No. 2 (now Virgin, No. 3, R. N. S.), and a Lodge No. 210, whose record has passed from the memory of all here.

"The Charter to St. Andrew's is a peculiarly interesting document, if only from bearing in three places the signature of Laurence Dermott."

Then follows the Charter, which is dated from London, the 26th of March, 1768.

The Charter authorises the formation of a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at the house (or at the sign, the document here is hard to decipher) of General Amherst, in the town of Halifax and Province of Nova Scotia, North America.

"It is know, continues the *Proceedings*, that most of the British officers then stationed here were Masons, and that, at a subsequent period, H. R. H. the Duke of Kent donated to the Craft a most valuable block in the heart of the city—alas! for its present size. Our "ancient brethren" must have called too often to refreshment and thereby consumed the patrimony. These and other facts lead some of our brethren to place the first readings in the words, whereas others, in view of the prevalent English custom of holding Lodges in Taverns, are inclined to adopt the second".

These *Proceedings* are signed by J. Conway Brown, who died on July 23rd. 1871, at the age of thirty years. He was a prominent Mason, if I can conclude the number of Masonic titles he held.—RAOUL RENAULT.

NAUFRAGE VIS-À-VIS LAPRAIRIE, EN 1819.—(62, vol. II, p. 299).—Mr. Joseph Faille writes to the *Courrier du Livre*, asking for the text of a "complainte", written in memory of the unfortunate persons who lost their lives by the upsetting and sinking of a boat between Montreal and Laprairie, in the year 1819. This disaster, by which 36 persons lost their lives, took place on the 16th of May, in the aforementioned year. The list of the victims and of the three (two men and a woman) who were rescued seems to indicate why Mr. Faille should be interested in the "complainte".