

The Chaplain having also read a portion of Holy Scripture, and the members of the Council having presented their credentials, the following address was then delivered by the President,

BROTHER WILLIAM JOHNSTON :

BRETHREN,—By the good providence of God, the Orangemen of the world are enabled to meet in Grand Council in the great metropolis of the British Empire. Here, the first meeting of the Triennial Council was held, in 1867, as the result of the Grand-Conference in Belfast, on the 18th July, 1866. To Brother William Shannon, formerly Grand Secretary for Central Canada, belongs the inception of this movement, which I had the honour of proposing to the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the 7th of December, 1865; Meetings in Toronto, in 1870; in Glasgow, in 1873; in Londonderry, in 1876; and in Ottawa, in 1879, have been attended by representative men of the noble Orange Order; and the unity of the Brotherhood has been achieved and maintained. Names of men who deserved well of their country are on the record roll of this council. Its first president, the venerated Earl of Enniskillen, now Imperial Grand Master, is, thank God, spared to us still. And the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, M.P., who was elected to that office in the Maiden City, is, deservedly, in Canada, a Minister of the Queen. But D'Arcy Boulton is gone, and Stewart Blacker; and the Empire has lost one of its ablest orators and truest sons in the Hon John Hillyard Cameron, once Grand-Master of British America.

When the Grand Council last met in the metropolis, the Earl of Derby was first Lord of the Treasury. The wrong done to Irish Orangemen by the Party Processions Act was brought under his notice, but he did not see his way to promote its repeal. The events, however, of that year, brought about this result; and it is worthy of remembrance that the resolution proposed in the House of Commons, in 1872, which drew from the Government a declaration of their intention to abolish it, was drafted by Benjamin Disraeli, who died Earl of Beaconsfield, but whose memory will live for ever.

Since that meeting in London the world has seen strange things. Thrones and empires have risen and gone down. But Britain's Throne is safe, unshaken; and so are liberty and life in nearly all Victoria's wide dominions. Ireland alone forms

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