

Even at the present time many of the crowned heads of the Old World, and notably His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in our own Empire, stand at the head of the Order, thus proving that as time advances a veneration surrounds the name of Freemasonry, and identifies it with integrity and uprightness. Whilst the lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war, have lain waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity, many institutions designed to benefit the human race, upon which the best efforts of human skill and judgment were employed, Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived, transmitting to posterity those latent virtues and attributes which have enabled it to outlive persecution, and to perpetuate the tenets which indissolubly bind its members together. To accomplish this, our craft must be good, our calling honorable, or it would not have remained for so many centuries, and still count amongst its most faithful adherents the most distinguished, illustrious and best elements of society throughout the entire world. Our position thus explained, it only remains for me to express the gratification afforded to the craft to respond to your invitation to lay the corner-stone of your New Court House with Masonic ceremonies. The duty is rendered more agreeable from the associations surrounding the occasion, which indicate that the temple to be reared will be used for the administration of that sterling, inflexible justice which is the proud characteristic of British law wherever enforced. While the former structure which this edifice is designed to replace furnished facilities suited to the times for which it was provided, and was doubtless considered a model in its way when originally built, the future seat of law and equity for this enlightened community will accord more with the genius of the present age, and prove a valuable addition to the handsome public buildings which already adorn the city. Our present prayer is that the G. A. O. T. U. will prosper the handiwork of all engaged in this undertaking, so that when completed it will realize the fullest anticipations of its liberal projectors. May the wisdom that inspired the Royal Solomon in his decisions before the Court of Israel ever animate those who shall here preside in administering the laws of this land, so that impartial justice may abound and the fullest sense of security to person and property prevail in our midst. And may the foundation now laid be as strong and the superstructure as lasting as eternal truth itself. We will now proceed to lay the corner-stone according to usage and custom, previous to which the Grand Chaplain will invoke a blessing from the Most High on the undertaking.

W. Bro. Rev. W. R. Ross, of Pickering,

Grand Chaplain, then offered up the following prayer:—

"Great Architect of the Universe, Maker and Ruler of all Worlds, design from Thy Celestial Temple, from realms of light and glory, to help us in all the purposes of our present assembly. We humbly invoke Thee to give us at this and all times, wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties and the beauty of harmony in all our communications. Permit us, O Thou Author of life and light, great source of love and happiness, to erect this building, so that hereafter it may be useful for the important purposes for which it is intended. Glory be to God on high!"

Response: So mote it be.

R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary, then read the following scroll, which was deposited in the stone:—

"This Corner Stone was laid by James Seymour, Esquire, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of Canada, upon the 17th day of August, A. D. 1877, in the 41st year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies in Europe, Africa, the Dominion of Canada, Australia, etc., etc., and Empress of India, The Right Honorable Sir Frederik Temple, Earl of Dufferin, K. P., K. C. B., being Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, the Honorable Donald Alexander Macdonald being Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, Thomas Stock, Esquire, being Warden of the County of Wentworth, and Francis Edwin Kilvert, Esquire, Mayor of the City of Hamilton, James Shaw Sinclair, Esquire, Judge of the County Court of the County of Wentworth; the Honorable Archibald McKellar, Sheriff of the County of Wentworth. The following composed the Joint Building Committee of the County and City.—Thomas Stock, Esquire, Warden, Chairman, F. E. Kilvert, Esquire, Mayor, Peter Wood, Esquire, Reeve of Beverley; John Welr, Esquire, Reeve of West Flamborough; Alonzo Eggleston, Esquire, Reeve of Ancaster; Thomas Lawry, Esquire, Reeve of Barton; James Hoey, Esquire, Reeve of Blinbrook; Robert McKeehan, Esquire, Reeve of Dundas; F. M. Carpenter, Esquire, Reeve of Saltfleet; W. M. Calder, Esquire, Reeve of Glanford; Kenneth Fitzpatrick, Joseph Kent, M. W. Browne, David McLellan, John Barry, Henry Carcellen, J. E. O'Reilly, Esquires, Aldermen of the City of Hamilton; Mr. Wm. Hancock, Mason, Mr. E. VanAllen, Builder, Contractors; C. W. Mulligan, Esquire, Architect, 'God Save the Queen.'"

Mr. Thomas Stock, the Warden, then presented the Grand Master with a handsome silver trowel, inlaid with gold, Masonic emblems and an ebony handle.

The Grand Master briefly returned thanks.

The cement having been spread, the upper stone was lowered with three halts, at which intervals the band played bars of the National Anthem; when it had been guided into its place, the Grand Junior Warden applied the plumb-rule, the Grand Senior Warden the level, and the Deputy Grand Master the square, and they having reported that the stone was just, true and properly laid, the Grand Master said, "Having full confidence in your skill in our Royal art, it remains for me to finish the work." He then struck the stone three times with the gavel and said: "Well made, truly laid, true and trusty; may this undertaking be com-