

our ritual and by our lectures, made, when first imparted to me, a deep and a lasting impression upon my then young and idealistic mind, I am, nevertheless, fully cognizant of the fact, that while honestly endeavoring to fulfill my duty as a Mason, I have often and repeatedly failed to perform the same.

The brethren of Grand Lodge, however, have not only been pleased to cast over those failures the broad mantle of a Mason's charity, but they have actually, in a most munificent manner, rewarded the performances of sacred duties,—of duties which every Mason is solemnly bound to perform.

Nothing, my brethren, could induce me to unremitting activity in our Masonic bee-hive, than this evidence of forbearance and generosity of Grand Lodge.

You have been pleased to mention the year 1858, as that in which I first attended Grand Lodge. That communication was not only eventful, as to myself personally, as it brought me from the narrow limits of private lodge matters, into the wide sphere of Grand Lodge affairs; it was also one of the most eventful and important in the chronology of Grand Lodge, since on that occasion the amalgamation of the two grand Masonic bodies in the old Province of Canada was so happily effected.

Grand Lodge, as you are aware, when established in 1855, did not obtain the unanimous approval of all the Masons residing within its jurisdiction; on the contrary, a considerable number of brethren not only refused to join, but actually formed a direct opposition.

On the part of Grand Lodge, every peaceful effort was made to reconcile these dissenting brethren; the services of brethren of eminence from sister Grand Lodges were secured, and nobly did they work in their endeavors to bring about the desired result. Correspondence was extensively carried on; hope for an early settlement

of existing differences was increasing, when suddenly that correspondence was broken off, and those dissenting brethren formed an opposition Grand Lodge. Yet, notwithstanding this serious act, earnest efforts were made to revive the correspondence, and they were crowned with success. In the short space of about six months, the requisite arrangements for an amalgamation were completed, the newly-formed Grand Lodge was dissolved, and those brethren who had composed the same, were admitted into Grand Lodge, and there received in the most fraternal manner.

And if, brethren, we remember that the Masonic schism in England, which had produced two Grand Lodges, lasted nearly a century, that it was only healed in December, 1813, by an amalgamation of those two Grand Lodges, through the earnest labors of those two brothers, the Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Kent, we may justly say that the amalgamation of the then existing two Grand Lodges in the old Province of Canada, and the happy union effected on the memorable 14th day of July, 1858, was an eventful and important day in the history of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

That Grand Lodge did so consider the same, was amply demonstrated, by the fact that honorary rank was conferred upon those eminent brethren who took a most active part in bringing about the desired union. The rank of Past Grand Master was conferred upon M. W. Bro. Philip Tucker, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont; M. W. Bro. H. T. Bachus, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan; R. W. Bros. Thomas D. Harington, and Thomas G. Ridout, Past Provincial Masters of the Grand Lodge of England, and R. W. Bro. W. C. Stephens; while the rank of Past Deputy-Grand Master was conferred upon M. W. Bro. Rob Morris, the Deputy-Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, now the Post-Laureate of Freemasonry.