

# A SERMON

PREACHED IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, HALIFAX, ON JUNE 11TH, 1890, UPON  
THE OPENING OF THE GRAND LODGE OF A., F. & A.  
MASONS OF NOVA SCOTIA,

BY THE REV. GEO. D. HARRIS,

RECTOR OF ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH LAHAYE, N. S.

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*1 St. Peter 2, 17: "Love the Brotherhood."*

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Assembled as we are to-day, brethren, as representatives of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nova Scotia, to honour the great God of heaven and earth, and as the first opening ceremony of our deliberations, we are following one of the land-marks of the Craft of Masonry, observed from time immemorial.

Religious services, along with instruction or eulogies of Masonry, have long been the practice of this honorable body when celebrating the day of either of her patron saints, or when gathered in legislative assembly. As early as the year 926 A. D., we find a written injunction, issued by a Grand Lodge called together by Prince Edwin, brother of King Athelstan, and which had been observed for ages before, that "Every Mason shall cultivate brotherly love, and the love of God, and frequent holy church."

Long before churches were built, Masons met on the highest hills or in the lowest valleys for the purposes of the Craft and to worship God. Relief in and worship of God are two of the leading features and the oldest landmarks of the fraternity. Religion and religious teaching are constantly inculcated in Masonry, which thereby becomes the best and most efficient handmaid of Christianity, in encouraging and assisting men to be men in the true sense of the word man, and of extending and applying her holy principles.

The principles and objects of Masonry are such as, when known, will attract the love and esteem of all honorable men, and I think myself happy in having this opportunity of presenting to you to-day some few of the many reasons why you should love this Brotherhood, second only to that glorious Brotherhood named after the Divine Son of God, viz., the Brotherhood of Christianity.

Freemasonry is no mere toy; it is not an institution designed simply for recreation, or for mutual protection, profit or pleasure, but is designed to teach man his relation to the mighty God, on the one hand, and, on the other, to all mankind and to himself, with his respective duty to each; and in this design she