

INTRODUCTION.

THE effort made in these pages to trace the origin and growth of Freemasonry in Stanstead and vicinity is, in part, the result of the celebration, on June 24th, 1903, of the Centennial of the organization of a Lodge of Freemasons in that place. Every such effort must assume no inconsiderable dimensions if the writer would give proportionate importance to formative influences or retarding forces.

The silent forces, working through the centuries, reached and enlightened the wilderness of America and, so far as our present purpose is concerned, culminated in the granting in 1803 of a Charter to a body of Masons, to be known henceforth as Lively Stone Lodge. A few short years of progressive life in the Masonic atmosphere of charity, and then the bursting of those storm clouds of political turmoil known as the War of 1812 could not but interrupt the workings of an institution whose home stood on the Boundary Line between the belligerent countries.

The old order changeth, giving place to new, and for a time the waters of the stream of Masonic life were divided into two courses. Golden Rule to the north of the Line, uniquely clothed in 1813 with the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, and Lively Stone to the south, followed their separate courses towards the eternal sea of truth.