

THE CRAFTSMAN, HAMILTON, 15th DECEMBER, 1868.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE,

No. 6, A. Y. M.,

(Now No. 3 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada.) held at Kingston

BY R. W. BRO. S. D. FOWLER.

Right Worshipful Brother William Jervis was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada, under warrant from the Grand Lodge (of A. Y. M.) assembled at London, on the 7th March, 1792, His Grace the Duke of Athole being then Grand Master, and Robert Lesslie, Grand Secretary. No masonic action appears to have been taken by Bro. Jervis until 1794, when he issued dispensations for holding the following Lodges:—

- No. 1, Niagara.
- " 2, Queenston.
- " 3, Queen's Rangers.
- " 4, Niagara.
- " 5, Edwardsburg.
- " 6, Kingston.

No. 6 was constituted at Kingston on the 7th August in the same year, as appears by the sub-joined minute:

KINGSTON, U. C., 7th August, 1794.

Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons opened at 7 o'clock at Bro. John Darley's Freemason's Tavern. Present:

Christopher Danby,	G. M. <i>pro. tem.</i>
John Darley,	D. G. M. "
Richard Cartwright,	S. G. W. "
John Walker,	J. G. W. "
J. C. Stewart,	Acting G. Sec. "

- Visitors: W. Barron, No. 7.
Nathan Curtice, St. John's.
Abraham Gates, St. John's

The Lodge proceeded to constitute Lodge No. 6, when the following brethren were installed in due form according to ancient custom:

Brother Richard Porter,	W. M.
William Mackay, Esq.,	S. W.
William Burwell,	J. W.

Brother J. C. Stewart was appointed Secretary, and Brother Herschfeldt, Tyler.

The Grand Lodge was then closed at 9 o'clock in due form and perfect harmony.

The minute-book of the Lodge commences with the By-Laws, which were copied from a book "printed by order of the Grand Lodge" apparently in London in the same year, and were signed by the following names:

Richard Porter, W. M.	Thomas Sparham, Sen.
William Barrell, S. W.	Thomas Plummer, M.M.
Titus Fitch, J. W.	Jonathan Goram.
Theophilus Sampson, S. D.	Dugald Grey.
John Walker, J. D.	Thomas Sparham, Jun.
John Darley, Treas.	William Eadus.
J. C. Stewart, Secretary.	Henry Eckford.
Wm. McDonell, Sen. Steward.	James Beyman.
John McLeod, Junior Steward.	W. Norfolk.
Abel Gates.	Thomas Beasley.

But it does not appear that all the above-named were members at the time the Lodge was first opened; some of them were not initiated until December.

The By-Laws are rather antiquated in style, as the following extracts will shew: "Every brother

shall appear in decent apparel with proper clothing, and observe a due decorum while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; and for the better preservation of decency and good harmony, a brother well skilled in the Master's part shall be appointed and paid for tying the Lodge during the time of communication." "If any member be absent one hour after the appointed time of meeting, he shall be fined sixpence; and if absent the whole night, or time of business, he shall be fined one shilling and sixpence, except such absentee be sick, lame, or in confinement." (?) "The Master shall be chosen by ballot, viz., the Wardens shall stand candidates for the Chair, on the stated Lodge-night before each St. John's Day, and the candidates shall withdraw, while every free member gives his vote in favor of him which he deems most worthy, each free member having one vote, and the Master two votes." A foot-note explains that a free member means one who has no dues or fines standing against him unpaid; and also, that the Master only gives his second vote in case of a tie. "The W. M. elect shall nominate one for the Senior Warden's Chair, at which time the present Master and brethren shall nominate one in opposition, to be balloted for in like manner," and so for all the officers. Officers elected and refusing to serve "shall be fined as follows, viz., for the Master, five shillings; each Warden and Secretary, two shillings and sixpence; each Deacon, one shilling; the Treasurer, at the discretion of the majority." "That every stated Lodge-night, each member shall pay one shilling and sixpence, H'x C'y, of which one shilling and three pence shall be spent, and the remainder put into the fund for the relief of indigent brethren. That the J. W. shall keep an exact account of the reckoning, and acquaint the Lodge when the stated complement is in; and upon his negligence or omission, he shall be accountable for the deficiency. And whereas the J. W. is accountable for such deficiency, it is hereby ordered and declared that if any member shall order any liquor on the Lodge's account without the consent of said Warden, the transgressor shall pay for the quantity so ordered out of his private pocket, exclusive of the stated expenses of the night." Respecting visitors: "and if admitted, he shall perform a certain ceremony in the Master's presence before he sits down." As to what *this* may be, we are left in the dark. We commend to the earnest attention of all Lodges the following requirements of a candidate for initiation: "And it is hereby ordered and declared that no person is capable of becoming a member of this Lodge but such as are of mature age, upright in body and limbs, free from bondage, has the senses of a man, and is endowed with an estate, office, trade, occupation, or some visible way of acquiring an honest and reputable livelihood, as becomes the members of this most antient and honorable fraternity." We would be sorry to believe that the following is needed for the regulation of Lodges now-a-days: "If any brother in the Lodge curse, swear, lie, lay or offer to lay wagers, or use any reproachful language in derogation of God's name or corruption of good manners, or interrupt any officer while speaking, he shall be fined at the discretion of the Master and majority." "If any member of this Lodge come disguised in liquor, or become so during Lodge hours, he shall be admonished (by the presiding officer) for the first offence; for the second of the same nature, he shall be fined