

BRO. HON. SENATOR GOWAN'S FIFTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY.

At the last regular meeting of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 16, G.R.C., held on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst., in the Masonic Hall, Toronto Street, Toronto, an event of historic interest took place to the Craft in general, being the presentation of an address of congratulation to a distinguished Canadian, Bro. Senator James Robert Gowan, C.M.G., Q.C., LL.D., of Barrie, who is the oldest living member of St. Andrew's Lodge at the present day, and perhaps the oldest living initiated Mason in the Dominion of Canada. The occasion brought together one of the largest and most distinguished gatherings of Masons that has been held in the city of Toronto or in Canada for years.

The presence of so many old and venerable members of the Craft, representing as they did, the diversity of the religious and political persuasions of the world, showed most conclusively the esteem which Bro. Senator Gowan is held by his Masonic brethren.

Following are some of the old Masons who were present, and who have been members of St. Andrew's Lodge for close on a half century or more: Bro. Senator J. R. Gowan (the guest of the evening) 56 years; R.W. Bro. Æmilus Irving, Q.C., 52 years; R.W. Bro. Kivas Tully, 52 years; W. Bro. Hugh Miller, 53 years (59 years a Mason); R.W. Bro. Thomas Ridout, 46 years; V.W. Bro. W. F. McMaster, 45 years; R.W. Bro. James Bain, 40 years; W. Bro. W. S. Lee, 40 years, and thirty or more brethren who have been members of St. Andrew's Lodge for upwards of thirty years.

St. Andrew's Lodge is the mother Lodge of Freemasonry in the city of Toronto and vicinity. Seventy-four

years ago, on the 24th of September, 1822, it was warranted, and it held its first meeting on the 27th of December, 1822, and since that time many distinguished men have been enrolled among its membership, men who have taken foremost positions in Canada as jurists, legislators, educationists, journalists, in fact, prominent men in all the walks of life have been members of St. Andrew's Lodge. Amongst the prominent members of the Craft present to do honor to the occasion were: M.W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Q.C., P.G.M.; R.W. Bro. William Gibson, M.P., D.G.M.; R.W. Bro. Benjamin Allen, G.S.W.; R.W. Bros. George Tait, H. A. Collins, Malcolm Gibbs, Richard Dinnis, D.D.G.M. of the 11th Masonic District, E. T. Malone, William McCabe, W. C. Wilkinson, Major F. F. Manley, James Bain, D. F. McWatt (Barrie), S. Wesley (Barrie), William Roaf, William Simpson, George J. Bennett; V.W. Bros. John A. Cowan, A. A. S. Ardagh, Daniel Rose, N. T. Lyon, W. P. Gundy, G. C. Patterson, H. Wellbanks, W. S. Lee; and W. Bros. Aubrey White, James Bicknell, J. L. Hughes, John Pearson, C. E. Edmonds, J. T. Slater, J. S. Lovell, T. Peardon, E. F. Clark, (Ex-Mayor), A. R. McDonald, C. C. Whale, J. W. Jones, William Anderson, James Glanville, R. W. Doan, George Moir, W. J. Graham, W. D. McPherson, C. J. Hohl, George Kappeler, J. W. Curry, W. G. Eakins, James R. Roaf, W. J. Guy, George Duchie, G. L. Lennox, Arthur Dennis, J. K. McKnight, Curran Morrison, L. J. Clark, Thomas Bell, D. Carlyle, Frank Denton; and Bros. Rev. C. A. Capp, Rev. Dr. Reynar, Rev. Dr. Sims, Rev. R. C. McWatt, J. E. Hansford, F. M. Bell-Smith, Warring Kennedy, (Ex-Mayor), Dr. H. J. Hamilton, Rev. J. Odery, and fifty members of the Lodge of Perfection in the A. & A. S. Rite of the Valley of Toronto. The Scottish Rite delegation was composed of some of the most prominent citizens of Toronto.

Letters regretting inability to be present were read from M.W. Bro. W. K.