

nocent, and pursued with moderation; and need not let irregular indulgences lead to the subversion of our system by impairing our faculties, or exposing our characters to derision.

In conformity to our precepts, as patterns worthy of imitation, let the respectability of our character be supported by the regularity of our conduct and the uniformity of our deportment; then as citizens of the world and friends to every clime we shall be living examples of virtue and benevolence, equally zealous to merit, as to obtain, universal approbation.

The following circular is addressed to the Freemasons of Canada in explanation of the affair at Ottawa; we recommend an attentive perusal:—

Circular Letter of the M. W. Grand Master, explanatory of matters relating to the laying of The Corner Stone of the Public Buildings at Ottawa, and the proposed co-operation hereof, and subsequent disappointment, of the Craft.

Bearing in mind my verbal explanation to Grand Lodge, on the 1st instant, I deem it to be my duty, while events are fresh in my remembrance, to draw up a statement of the circumstances relating to the laying of the Corner Stone of the Public Buildings, at Ottawa, by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, on the 1st September, 1860, and the proposed co-operation thereof, of the Masonic Fraternity, and its subsequent disappointment.

Several Brethren having asked me (if the Craft would, in my opinion, appear as a Body during the visit of the Prince, to which question I could give no decided answer,) I addressed on the 27th July, the annexed letter, to Brother The Honorable Attorney General MacDonald, asking if it was probable that the Freemasons would be invited to assist in Laying the Corner Stone, at Ottawa, which he verbally acknowledged, and promised to attend to,—and a few days after he informed me that the Governor General approved of the presence of the Craft, but considered it to be his duty to consult the Prince of Wales, before arriving at any final conclusion. The propriety of this step was obvious, but it entailed, of course, considerable delay, as His Excellency had to meet the Prince at Gaspé, and would not return to Quebec before the 18th August, and then the hurry, confusion and excitement attendant upon so interesting a period, rendered it next to impossible, to see and converse with any member of the Government.

Early in August, I went to the Public Works office, by request of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Keefer, who asked what my ideas were in regard to the ceremony at Ottawa, and desired to know what the Freemasons proposed doing. I at once explained that they could be present, only to take some part in the ceremony, and also that, although the Prince would actually lay the Stone, and be the recipient of all the honors, the Grand Master of the Order must, if present declare the stone to be properly laid in the usual form. Shortly after, the Commissioner, Brother the Hon. Mr. Rose, sent again for me, and to him I gave the same explanation, showing him the copy of my letter to Mr. MacDonald, and informing him that it was then in the hands of the Governor General, and as time was passing rapidly by, I ought to have a quick reply, to enable me to issue my Summons to the Grand Lodge and Brethren generally, as well as to afford time for the assembling of visitors from the United States, from whom I had received communications, and I placed before him one from M. W. Brother Robert Morris, of Kentucky, the following being an extract therefrom:—

"LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY, July 31, 1860.

"Should you decide to call your Grand Lodge, together, as your worthy predecessor suggested and acted upon H. R. Highness, I submit to you whether it might not add eclat to the occasion were some one representing the American Grand Lodges to be united in the deputation. I would cheerfully attend and could in every sense of the word speak for the Grand Lodge, Grand Masters, and the General Craft of this country. I have not

given any hint upon this subject to any one, nor will I until I hear from you. But if you approve of it, and official etiquette justify such a measure, the fact that 4700 Lodges and 196,000 Masons of the United States, tender their good wishes and welcome to the Prince, would, it appears to me, redound some honor to our common cause."

Mr. Rose coincided with all I said, and after he had an interview with the Governor General, repeated what I had formerly learned from Mr. MacDonald. After the arrival on the 18th, Mr. Rose informed me that, although the Prince, not being a Freemason, could not lay the stone with Masonic honors, and could not well be initiated for the purpose, without causing jealous feelings; yet he would be glad to be supported by the Craft, and have its members around him. I was to be told this in writing; no letter, however, reached me, but Brother H. Bernard, Attorney General's Department, informed me by authority, that all was arranged, and I could summon the Craft for the first of September. Before, however, I could do this, I received a message from Mr. Rose himself, to the effect that the matter was not quite settled and requesting me to delay my summons until I again heard from him. Three days elapsed and I had abandoned all idea of the presence of the Fraternity being required at Ottawa, when on the 23rd August, Mr. Receiver General Sherwood told me that I was to be present, and on my saying that Mr. Rose had not written, he advised me at once to seek an interview with that Gentleman, who was about to take his departure that very day for Ottawa. I went directly, and found him at dinner, and his carriage in waiting to convey him to the Railway Station, but he very kindly waived inconvenience, and saw me. I again explained how, only, as a Body, the Craft could be present, pointed out that it was not a light thing to assemble the Brethren,—that unless to take a prominent part they could not appear publicly as Freemasons, and I spoke very plainly. Mr. Rose, pleading hurry with good reason, could not then write, but assured me that he would do everything he could for the Craft when at Ottawa, promised me passes for such official brethren as I might name, asked me what their assembling would be likely to cost the Government, to which I answered—nothing,—and requested me, seeing the state of things, and as a man of the world, judging by what he then said, to assume the responsibility, and summon the Fraternity. I left him under the impression that the Craft was to take a part in the approaching ceremony; and telegraphed at once to the Grand Secretary, requesting him to issue the necessary summons,—despatched messages to some other members of the Grand Lodge,—was fortunate at Montreal in meeting with and explaining my position to my predecessor in office, and the deputy Grand Master, and receiving a promise from each to be present and support me, (although their subsequent pressing engagements prevented this,) and on Friday, the 31st, met my Brethren at Ottawa.

On Friday evening, accompanied by Brother Harris, Grand Secretary, Brother De Grassi, Grand Director of Ceremonies, and Brother Laver, Architect of the Parliamentary Buildings, I called at the temporary residence of the Prince, and had an interview with Mr. Rose, at which I spoke very freely and openly, and protested against further indecision and delay in letting the Craft know what its Members were to do the following day; and not only did I once more explain, by his desire, what the Freemasons expected, viz: a prominent position to be assigned to them, as a Body, on the ground, while the Grand Master and the Principal Officers of the Grand Lodge took their proper places near the stone, but I drew attention to that portion of the ceremonial, which related to the proving and declaring the stone to be properly laid, as being peculiarly the province of the Craft,—which was all it desired to do,—and the performance of which could not prevent all the honors being accorded, as they ought to be, to the Prince. Mr. Rose, at first threw out a suggestion that I should see the Duke of Newcastle, or his Secretary, but it did not strike me that I had anything to do with either, only the Canadian Authorities; and, finally, I left in Mr. Rose's keeping my man-

uscript of the ceremony, for which, and the final decision of the Government, I was to call the next morning, and make the last known to the Grand Lodge. I may here mention that it became apparent to my brethren and myself, that some kind of influence, although impossible to define its nature, was adverse to the Fraternity, and we could guess that individuals, not Freemasons, were desirous of taking prominent parts in the ceremony, from which the Craft, if it assisted, might exclude them.

I may likewise mention, that I pointed out, during my several interviews how members of the Government, being Freemasons, could, if they chose to do so unite their Executive and Masonic functions, by acting as Officers, pro tem.: the Legislative Chaplain could officiate as Grand Chaplain, and the Government Superintendent of Works, as Grand Superintendent; both being members of our Order.

Finally, I saw Mr. Rose on the day of the ceremony, and learned from him that there had been a meeting of the Executive Council that morning, at which it was resolved that the Craft should not take part in the approaching ceremony. I must, however add, that Mr. Rose was very kind, expressed much regret, offered tickets of admittance to the premises, wished the Fraternity to attend in clothing as spectators, verbally invited me to bring some eight or ten of the principal Members to the Déjeûner, and hoped I would soften down the disappointment as much as in my power: adding, that Brother the Hon. John Ross, President of the Council, was to see me, but I did not meet that gentleman.

Every particular was submitted to Grand Lodge, and its proceedings thereon, embracing the resolution of the Brethren, (while bowing to the decision of the authorities) not in any way to appear in public as Freemasons—or accept any invitation, and to send an address to England—will be found recorded in the published proceedings. The course they adopted met with my ready concurrence.

I trust that this statement will be satisfactory to the Brethren at large, as it was to Grand Lodge and they will not think that our Order suffered in any way, except from disappointment at not being permitted, after their anxiously expressed readiness to support and assist their most gracious young Prince, and future Sovereign. I considered it to be my duty to summon them together under the circumstances,—as I have given them in detail,—that their honor and loyalty might not be impugned, or the risk be incurred of their being called upon to act, at the very last moment, and being then found wanting. If I erred, and caused inconvenience, the Brethren must overlook the error, as one of the head and not of the heart, and consider indulgently my desire to act for the best, and anxiously that the Son of our beloved QUEEN should have every possible honor shown to him, and the Corner Stone of the National Buildings of this magnificent country, after being laid by him; declared, according to Ancient Custom, to be—"Well formed, true and trusty" by the "Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada."

T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON,

Grand Master, &c.

QUEBEC, September, 1860.

[COPY OF A LETTER REFERRED TO AT PAGE ONE.]
Bro., The Hon. J. A. MacDonald, &c.

QUEBEC, 27th July, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Is it probable that the Masonic Body will be invited to take part in the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the Public Buildings at Ottawa? You are aware that it is not in accordance with the principles of our Order for Freemasons to obtrude themselves on the public, neither is it customary for them to be mixed up with other Bodies, Firemen, &c.

I am induced to make this inquiry through you, as a Member of our Order, as well as a very high Public Official, so as to insure proper notice being sent to the Brotherhood, who are, as they ever have been, truly and devotedly loyal, and would, I know, esteem it almost proud honor to support